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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Denies Senator Dole 'Not Welcome'

NC1607144295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—A responsible source at the Arab League has denied a French magazine report that the Arab League does not welcome a visit by Bob Dole, leader of the Republican majority in the U.S. Congress, to a number of Arab countries.

In its issue yesterday, the French weekly LE POINT cited a responsible source at the Arab League as saying that the league does not welcome the Republican majority leader's visit to the region.

Arab League Chief Meets With Yemen's Salih

NC1507083695 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, living in Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria, received Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid this morning. 'Abd-al-Majid stated after the meeting that he sensed the Yemeni president's interest in backing the Arab League's role in current Arab issues. He said that all the indications he received from President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih show that he is keen on clearing the Arab atmosphere and restoring Arab solidarity. He said he appreciates the Yemeni president's role in this regard. Dr. 'Abd- al-Majid pointed out that the meeting addressed a number of current Arab issues in addition to the Arab situation in general. He added that he congratulated President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on signing the Yemeni-Saudi border agreement because it is a positive step in this regard.

Iraqi Foreign Minister To Meet Arab League Head

NC1707152695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, will meet tomorrow with Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, who is due to arrive in Cairo this evening on a two—day visit.

An Arab League official source said the Iraqi foreign minister and Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid will discuss several Arab issues, including reconciliation efforts, the amending of differences, support for the Arab League's role, and the establishment of joint Arab action bodies.

The source added that the two officials will also discuss Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council and ways to end the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. The Turkish invasion of northern Iraq and the hunting down of Kurds inside Iraq will be discussed as well.

Islamic Affairs

OIC Chief Condemns Kashmir Kidnappings

LD1507190995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1625 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 15 Jul (SPA) — Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], has strongly denounced the kidnapping of British, U.S., Norwegian, and German nationals in occupied Kashmir.

In an OIC media statement issued today, he has appealed to all sides concerned, including the Kashmiri leadership and all the Kashmiri parties, to exercise their influence to secure the safe release of all those kidnapped immediately and without conditions.

The secretary general said that such inhuman acts were considered violations of the principles of Islam, humanity, and civilized behavior, about which one could not remain silent.

OIC Contact Group To Meet in Rabat on Bosnia

LD1707192495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 17 Jul (SPA) — The Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] has decided to hold a meeting of its contact group on Bosnia—Herzegovina at the foreign ministers level in Rabat on 21 July, under the chairmanship of Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, .

A press statement by the organization today stated that the meeting will be held in the aftermath of the grave and rapid deterioration of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The contact group on Bosnia-Herzegovina includes Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Senegal, Turkey, and the OIC secretary general.

The statement added that the OIC contact group's meeting will be held at a critical time, after the savage occupation by the Serb forces of the UN "safe zones" in Srebrenica and persistent Serb attacks on other safe zones in eastern Bosnia, particularly Zepa and Gorazde.

OIC Secretary General Hamid Algabid has expressed his confidence that the ministerial council of the OIC contact group will provide a fresh and strong impetus to the efforts made by the organization to mobilize international support and carry out effective action to defend the issue of Bosnia—Herzegovina.

OIC, UN Leaders Meet on OIC Afghan Mission

LD1607181095 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1535 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah, 16 Jul (SPA) — Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC], met Mahmoud Mestire, head of the UN secretary general's special mission to Afghanistan, at the OIC headquarters in Jeddah today.

A press statement issued by the OIC in Jeddah today stated that they discussed the situation in Afghanistan and affirmed the need to continue close coordination and cooperation between the organization and the United Nations in efforts made to achieve peace in Afghanistan.

The statement pointed out that an OIC mission headed by Ambassador Ahmad Anjin Insai, the permanent representative of the OIC to the United Nations, will head for Afghanistan to hold talks with all Afghan leaders, the different sides, and various sections of society.

Mahmoud Mestire is also heading for the region to renew UN peace efforts in Afghanistan.

The statement made clear that the OIC secretary general and the head of the UN secretary general's special mission to Afghanistan exchanged views on the means to initiate serious and credible dialogue among the Afghan parties to attain peace and national reconciliation in Afghanistan. They also discussed the need to establish as soon as possible a preliminary mechanism that would lead to a broader mechanism with the participation of the Afghan parties, to achieve peace in Afghanistan.

Palestinian Affairs

Jericho VOP: 'Arafat, Mubarak, Peres To Meet

JN1707190395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1800 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will hold a meeting in Alexandria the day after tomorrow [19 July].

Marwan Kanafani, President 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, said the meeting will address ways to overcome the obstacles preventing a final agreement on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles.

The announcement on the Palestinian-Egyptian-Israeli meeting coincides with the ongoing intensive Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the neighborhood of Zikhron Ya'aqov near the city of Haifa.

These negotiations are designed to reach agreement on redeploying the Israeli occupation army, holding Palestinian elections, and transferring the civic powers. The Palestinian side is led by Ahmad Quray', minister of economy and trade, whereas the Israeli side is led by Uri Savir, director general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

'Urayqat: Coexistence With Settlers 'Impossible'

JN1707142395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1100 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Interview with Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat by Fathi al-Barqawi; place and date not given; from the "Today's Events" feature — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Barqawi] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations seem to be facing some problems?

['Urayqat] This is not new. In fact, the same obstacle that prevented us from reaching an agreement by 1 July is hampering the current talks. Our brothers, who are now holding negotiations, are doing their best to overcome obstacles blocking redeployment [of the Israeli forces] and security matters. The Israeli Government's continued attempt to reach an agreement for the benefit of the settlers rather than the Palestinian and Israeli peoples will undermine efforts to bridge the existing gap between the two positions. This is the main problem. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barqawi] Dr. 'Urayqat, you have previously said that you are seeking an agreement that can be applied and that is acceptable to the 7 million Israelis and Palestinians. What is the Palestinian concept of such an agreement?

['Urayqat] The Palestinians are seeking an agreement that can be implemented in accordance with the Oslo Declaration of Principles accord. I believe that the agreement which we are now trying to sign is more important than the Declaration of Principles. [passage omitted]

Every Israeli should know that coexistence between the Palestinian people and the settlers is impossible, impossible, impossible. These settlements are illegal because they are established on lands stolen from the Palestinian people. Above all, settlement and peace cannot occur at the same time, and the Israeli Government will have to choose between peace and settlement because it cannot have them together.

[Al-Barqawi] So, at the end of this interview, we can say that the Palestinians reject these settlements?

['Urayqat] This is natural. We are not alone. The whole world, as well as the UN Security Council's resolutions, are unanimous that settlement is illegal and will block peace. Once again, we say either peace or settlement.

[Al-Barqawi] Dr. 'Urayqat, thank you very much.

['Urayqat] You are welcome.

Husayni Criticizes Israel's Oslo Treaty Approach

AU1507183595 Vienna KURIER in German 15 Jul 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "We Palestinians Are Not Israel's Slaves"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] During a talk with foreign correspondents in Jerusalem, Faysal Husayni, the unofficial minister for Jerusalem on the Palestinian Autonomy Council, is aggressive. "The Israelis are not our masters, and we are not their slaves," he notes heatedly when he is asked about the negotiations for an agreement on the second stage of the 1993 Oslo Treaty. "Israel's actions are disgusting and unfair," he says. The Oslo Agreement clearly states that both sides must not establish any new facts until the negotiations are over. And what are they doing in Jerusalem?" the minister for Jerusalem, who must not call himself that because the city is not part of the autonomous territory, asks. "They are expanding their settlements."

If he has his way, the Palestinians will elect their Autonomy Council only when all towns and villages are under Palestinian self-rule. However, Husayni knows that PLO chief 'Arafat is nowadays more ready for compromise than many heroes of the intifadah. Husayni has just concluded a hunger strike, which was organized by 'Arafat's al-Fatah group out of solidarity with the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners who are still in Israeli prisons.

Has the hunger strike benefited the peace negotiations? "We are here in the Middle East," Husayni says with a slight smile. "No one ever knows if there is any movement."

Plans To Release Palestinian Prisoners Detailed

TA1407104195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Jul 95 p A4

[Report by Eytan Rabin, Aluf Ben, and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The ministerial committee discussing the release of Palestinian prisoners has decided to expand the criteria applied to those slated to be released. The committee, headed by Police Minister Moshe Shahal, decided to release prisoners sentenced to up to 17 years who have served at least 10 years of their term. This was reported by a senior security source. The possibility of releasing prisoners from this group who committed felonies in the territories and wounded Palestinians will be examined.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, head of the Palestinian Authority [PA] committee on the prisoners issue, and committee member Sufyan Abu-Zayidah told the Israeli ministerial committee — Shahal, David Liba'i, and Yosi Sarid — that they believe it is very important that Israel free security prisoners who they consider to have been part of the Palestinian leadership during the intifadah. They referred to a group of several dozen Palestinian prisoners sentenced to 10-20 years. It has now been decided that anyone who has served 10 years for wounding Palestinians, not Israelis, will be included in the first round of prisoners to be released upon the signing of the interim agreements.

Minister Shahal will meet with Sha'th this morning and present him with the precise criteria for the prisoners' release.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0900 GMT on 14 July reports: "Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that in his meeting this morning with the PA's Nabil Sha'th, it was decided that more Palestinian prisoners will be released upon the signing of the next stage of the agreement. Minister Yosi Sarid, who also attended the meeting, noted that a significant number of prisoners will be released on condition that they are not members of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the Islamic Jihad and that they sign a written commitment to abide by the peace agreement with Israel. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that it was also agreed to transfer 900 Palestinian criminal convicts to jails in the PA."]

Upon signing the interim agreement, Israel will release 600 Palestinian prisoners who are considered supporters of the peace agreement, invalids, elderly, under 18 years old (some 50 Palestinians under 18 are detained in Israeli prison facilities), and female prisoners.

On the eve of the elections in the territories, some 800 additional prisoners are expected to be released, including prisoners sentenced to 6-12 months. This group includes Hamas members who have not committed acts of terror. According to the emerging decision, a prisoner who is a Hamas activist and who was sentenced to 12 months and served six of them will be released only after signing a form expressing support for the political process.

Two female prisoners were released several days ago. The inclination now is to free 10 other female prisoners who did not commit acts of terror but took part in riots or attempted to attack IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers but failed.

Some 5,400 Palestinians are currently detained in Israeli prisons: 1,000 are criminal convicts, 3,500 are being held in Prison Authority installations, and the rest are held in IDF facilities. Some 2,300 of them committed acts of terror after the signing of the Oslo agreement, and 600 of them are Hamas members who will not be released. The Palestinians are no longer demanding that Hamas prisoners convicted of terrorism be released, but they are demanding that security prisoners who were active during the intifadah be freed.

Therefore, according to the ministerial committee's plan, the second group of released prisoners will include 800 Palestinians who did not engage in terrorism, including Hamas members. These are being held in IDF detention facilities after having been sentenced to 12-24 months. Prisoners who have not yet completed serving sentences of up to five years will also be released.

Currently, the PA is not insisting that criminal convicts be released. Members of the PA committee — including Attorney Furayh Abu-Middayn and Hisham 'Abd-al-Raziq — told the Israeli committee of the pressure they are under in view of growing Palestinian popular demand that the prisoners be released.

The PA has apparently agreed to take under its wing several dozen foreign prisoners from Pakistan, Iraq, and other Arab countries who had infiltrated or defected to Israel and were captured while crossing the border. Minister Shahal proposed to Sha'th that the PA take these prisoners in, and the latter agreed. [passage omitted]

Pro-Peace Forces Hold Meeting for Coordination

JN1607200695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The forces and parties backing the Palestinian peace march, construction, and democracy have stressed their support for decisions made by the Palestinian National Authority for the benefit of the Palestinian people's interests and national causes.

In a statement distributed in Gaza today, these forces denounced the sinful aggression against Palestinian policeman Akram Ahmad in Gaza as a serious precedent threatening the security and safety of the citizens. They appealed to all our people to cooperate with the security organs to unveil the criminals in order to send them to court.

The Palestinian al-'Ahad Party, the Islamic Jihad movement, the al-'Aqsa Battalions, the Palestine Liberation Front, and the Palestinian National Grouping held a meeting at the headquarters of the Palestinian al-'Ahd Party and studied the ways of coordination in order to take an effective part in the political life.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel, Palestinians Continue Talks in Zikhron

Draft Documents Exchanged

TA1707161695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Zikhron Ya'aqov today, Israeli and PLO negotiators exchanged draft documents for an agreement on Palestinian self-rule. PLO officials say they expect the venue to be moved to Cairo next week in an attempt to reach an accord by the 25 July target date.

'Serious Gaps' Emerge

TA1707182595 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A first dispatch of Palestinian police are slated to take over the city of Janin within three weeks. 'Arafat has ordered Fatah activists in the city to prepare a welcome for him, despite the fact that the differences of opinion concerning the nature of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment outside the rural areas still have not been overcome in the Zikhron Ya'aqov talks. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that Israel and the Palestinians still hope to sign the agreement in Washington in late July.

Meanwhile, the marathon talks between Israel and the Palestinians in Zikhron Ya'aqov continue. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that the two sides plan to stay in the hotel in which the talks are being held until the end of the week. Difficulties remain in the key points, among them the problem of Rachel's Tomb.

[A report by correspondent Nitzan Hen later on the same newscast adds: "The next site of controversy with the Palestinians appears to be Rachel's Tomb. The settlers say they will not allow the site to be turned into an enclave located in Palestinian-held territory."

[Hen later adds that "The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is currently working out a plan for erecting fences and placing mobile homes to link the 'Etzyon Bloc to Rachel's Tomb, thus creating some 20 km of continuous Jewish settlement."]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Yasir 'Arafat, and President Mubarak will meet in Cairo [as heard] on 19 July. The three will seek to bridge the differences in the issues of the redeployment, water, and the vote of East Jerusalem residents.

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 17 July, in a similar report, adds: "Serious gaps surfaced today in the talks between Israel and the Palestinians. Israeli sources told our political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, however, that some of the problems are likely to be solved in the meeting slated to be held between Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Yasir 'Arafat in Alexandria on 19 July. The most difficult problems will be left for the summit meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and 'Arafat in Egypt next week."]

Differences Halt Water Talks

TA1807082695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sharp differences have surfaced at the talks between the Palestinians and Israel in Zikhron Ya'aqov with regard to the water issue. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the Palestinians are demanding that their water rights be decided now. However, the Israeli representatives are willing to discuss only water distribution quotas, asserting that the issue of water rights will be negotiated within the framework of the permanent arrangement. As a result of the above, no discussions are being held on this matter, which is one of the most central issues in the negotiations.

Delegates Brief 'Arafat

JN1707163995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Jul 95

[From the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yasir 'Atilah, our correspondent for West Bank affairs, has learned that members of the Palestinian negotiating delegation in the ongoing talks with Israel in Zikhron Ya'aqov have sent a message to Yasir 'Arafat, head of the Palestinian Authority [PA]. They accused the Israeli negotiating side of dictating terms and not holding negotiations, as they put it.

The Palestinian negotiators cited as an example an Israeli demand that the Palestinians should not be in charge of security in village areas in the West Bank that are adjacent to the Green Line. They added that Israel insists the PA powers should be confined to administrative tasks. Other examples are the issues of water resources and state-owned lands.

Our correspondent said that following this message, contact was made with the Egyptians to brief them on the latest developments. Afterward, it was decided to hold a meeting in Alexandria on the day after tomorrow, Wednesday, with the participation of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, PA head Yasir 'Arafat, and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Regional Highway Discussions Begin in Amman

JN1307202995 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 13 Jul 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A meeting of the land transport infrastructure working group was held in Amman today to discuss a European study for a regional highway.

Delegates from Jordan, Egypt, Palestine, Israel, and the European Community took part in the one-day meeting.

The Secretary General of the Planning Ministry, Nabil 'Ammari told the delegates the group was working to plan for and implement practical and comprehensive projects in the region. He said these projects aim to achieve the results in regional economic cooperation.

'Ammari stressed the need for building bridges in Jordan in view of its central location for regional cooperation. He added that due attention should also be directed towards other infrastructure investments.

More on 'Arafat–Ramon Meeting in Gaza 11 Jul

TA1207143195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Jul 95 p 1

[ITIM report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Histadrut Chairman Hayim Ramon met for the first time yesterday with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, who asked Ramon to do more to advance employment opportunities for workers in the territories.

'Arafat also voiced reluctance over plans to move talks with Israel to Italy. "Nothing has been settled and I prefer it to be here," he told reporters.

In the Gaza meeting last night, 'Arafat said Palestinian workers should get priority over foreign laborers for jobs in Israel.

"As long as the economic development of the territories does not progress, the Israeli economy must be open and give preference to Palestinian workers," said 'Arafat, who described their meeting as "friendly."

Palestinian Authority Planning Minister Nabil Sha'th, 'Arafat adviser Ahmad al-Tibi, negotiator Sa'ib

'Urayqat and Information Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh also participated in the meeting for the Palestinian side, while Ramon brought adviser Jacques Neriya, who heads foreign relations for the Histadrut.

Ramon clarified to 'Arafat that as long as Israelis cannot be totally secure, "it will not be possible to do much on behalf of Palestinian workers. Security is important to Israel and you will have to live with these demands."

'Arafat responded by saying that there had not been even one terror incident involving a Palestinian worker from a terror organization.

During the one-hour meeting, the sides also discussed the peace process, the accord with the PA and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

'Arafat emphasized the need to hold elections in the territories, and said as soon as they are held the peace process will be irreversible.

Neriya said the transfer of funds to Palestinian unions in the territories was not discussed, although the unions in the territories have expressed anger that some NIS [new Israeli shekels] 4 million in dues collected from Palestinian workers has not been transferred.

Neriya said the sides did discuss plans for creating jobs in the territories, and ways to increase cooperation between Israeli and Palestinian unions as a way to advance the peace process.

At the end of the meeting, 'Arafat and Ramon agreed to continue to build ties and cooperate.

Algeria

Opposition Parties Condemn Secret FIS-Government Talks

MM1707141795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 15 Jul 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Opposition Condemns Attempt To Conclude Deal Between Government and FIS"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algiers, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Algerian opposition parties find themselves in a difficult position now that it has transpired that the Algerian Government held secret talks for five days with the [Islamic] Salvation Front [FIS]. None of these parties has been able to give a clear reaction to these developments. Abdelhamid Mehri, leader of the National Liberation Front [FLN], the main opposition party, said: "I cannot understand what is going on. We have given ourselves time to study and examine the details and implications of what has happened."

In a telephone interview between the capital Algiers and London, the Algerian opposition leader seemed sad that the FIS and the Algerian Government had tried to strike a separate deal but he refused to accuse the FIS of having broken the Algerian opposition parties' consensus.

He did say that "it is difficult to believe or imagine" the government preventing the FIS leaders who are now out of prison in Algeria from engaging in any political activity. He said that "the people through whom we hold contacts with the FIS have received instructions to stop their political activities until further notice." Mehri added: "We do not know if that is an administrative or political measure."

The FIS leaders had received instructions to stop their activities from Justice Minister Mohamed Adami personally, which raises questions as to whether or not the government is adopting a more hard-line policy toward the more moderate elements in the opposition ranks.

Khaled Ben Isma'il, leader of the Algerian Democratic Movement, was willing to comment on the secret talks between the Algerian Government and the detained FIS leaders. He said: "As a matter of principle, we do not approve of the methods used." In a telephone statement, he said: "The issues under discussion cannot be dealt with in secrecy. Clarity is very important if the aim is to achieve a settlement through negotiation."

Ben Isma'il said he did not believe that Abassi Madani, the FIS leader who conducted the talks with President Zeroual through two envoys, broke the consensus reached by the Algerian opposition parties in Rome last month. He added that his party saw the failed talks as "preliminary negotiations" but he insisted that any future talks should be between the signatories of the "national charter" on the one hand and the "Algerian authorities" on the other.

He expressed optimism about the possibility of "meaningful dialogue" between the government and the opposition after the government confirmed its willingness to give the opposition "more time to consider the situation." A Socialist Forces Front [FFS] source expressed "astonishment and disappointment" regarding the FIS leaders' attempt to conclude a deal with the government behind the opposition's back. The source, who insisted that his identity should not be revealed, said what happened was nothing more than "false negotiations." He added that it was not clear if "one party was trying to mislead the other."

Italian Shooting Victim Critical; Car Bomb Injures 14

LD1707194295 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, a foreign national has once more been the target of an attack. This time it is an Italian national. According to the Italian Foreign Ministry, he is a 40-year-old man called Dino Fausti. This businessman was hit by several bullets in the Kouba district of the Algerian capital today. He has had an emergency operation and he is in a critical condition.

A car bomb exploded last night in Boufarik, near Algiers. According to the daily LIBERTE, 14 people were injured. The target of the attack was a building where the families of policemen reside.

According to the same newspaper, a remote-control bomb killed some policemen in Shaoula, near Algiers.

Still on Algeria, Hadj Benaamane, a journalist of the Algerian news agency APS, has been sentenced to three years in prison by the Tamanrasset tribunal for having revealed in a dispatch the place where Ali Belhadj, the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] number two, was detained.

Minister 'Strongly' Condemns Attack

LD1707200595 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Italian national was the target of a terrorist attack in Algiers this afternoon. The operation was carried out by a group of armed terrorists who opened fire on the 48-year-old man. Dino Fausti, the Italian national, is the manager of an import-export company. The victim was seriously wounded in this attack and was immediately taken to hospital.

The Algerian minister of interior, local authorities, environment, and administrative reform strongly condemned this vile crime against a foreign national. This crime undermines the values and spirit of hospitality of the Algerian people.

The interior minister renewed the state's determination to fight and punish the criminals with severity and in accordance with the law. He stressed the need to put a final end to terrorism and to restore order in the interest of the nation and its guests.

Islamic Salvation Army Issues 'Jihad Call'

MM1707115095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Kamil al-Tawil: "Recent AL-ANSAR Bulletin Makes No Comment on Sahraoui's Assassination"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — The AL-ANSAR bulletin, which is close to the Algerian Armed Islamic Group [GIA], yesterday only made a passing reference to the assassination of Shaykh Abdelkader Sahraoui, cofounder of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], in Paris last Tuesday. And it confirmed the issuing of the statement that AL-HAYAH published early in the week, in which the GIA announced that it was permissible to "shed the blood" of a number of FIS leaders, among them Sahraoui.

The bulletin allocated an inconspicuous place for the report on Sahraoui's assassination, pointing out that "his murder coincided with the government's announcement of the failure of the dialogue with the remnants of the FIS." It is not known why the bulletin just made a reference to the murder of Sahraoui and one of his aides named Ahmed Omar in a mosque in Rue Myrha in the 18th Arrondissement in Paris.

A possible interpretation is that it has not yet received a position from the GIA inside Algeria. However, some people believe that its publication of the statement allowing the "shedding of the blood" of FIS leaders confirms its tacit approval of the leaders' murder.

As is known, a statement bearing the number 34 and signed by the GIA pointed out on 21 May that its mouthpiece is a bulletin called AL-JAMA'AH. However, it said that it some Islamic bulletins abroad are entitled to publish the GIA's news, provided "they take responsibility for what is published about the GIA, good and bad, just as the AL-ANSAR bulletin, published.abroad by some jihad supporters in Algeria and elsewhere, does."

In this context it has been reported that some AL-ANSAR officials are linked directly with the GIA inside Algeria. And Abu Mus'ab al-Suri, an official of the bulletin whose real name is believed to be Oman Abdelhakim, has been cited as saying that his students in the days of the jihad in Afghanistan are running the GIA inside Algeria. Abu Mus'ab participated in the jihad against the Soviet occupation, and it seems that young Arab men of various nationalities, including Algerians, were influenced by his ideology. It is said that he is still in touch with Algerians who fought in Afghanistan and returned to their country after the end of the jihad there. His influence in the GIA is clear. It is reflected in the way its statements are written, as they some times declare people as unbelievers.

In a statement dated 4 May the GIA warned FIS leaders to stop making statements on the jihad. In addition to Abdelbaki Sahraoui, the threat included Hocine Slimani, Abdelkader Sahraoui, Kamareddin Kharban, Abdallah Anas, Anouar Haddam, Moussa Kraouche, and "Abassi's sons," (whom it did not name). The statement gave them a month to comply with the threat, which was followed by another statement at the end of June, in which the GIA announced that it was permissible to "shed the blood" of the shaykhs, adding to them other FIS officials such as Ali Djedi, Abdelkader Boukhamkham, and Kamal Geumazi.

At another level, the General Command of the Islamic Salvation Army [AIS], the FIS' armed wing, yesterday issued a "jihad call."

The call was published in the AL-INQADH bulletin issued by the FIS Information Committee in Algeria, a copy of which has been obtained.

The "AIS leadership" stressed that "it hastened to write to several quarters in the country," explaining to them what has been happening in Algeria since the elections were canceled early in 1992. And it described the Algerian security forces' victories over the armed groups as "imaginary." It cited the Ain Defla and Jijel battles, in which several sources said that the [Algerian] Army had great successes. The AL-INQADH bulletin belittled what happened without explaining the truth of the current situation.

It also replied to "alleged statements issued by the AIS" and other armed organizations to the effect that a war is raging among the various armed factions...and the hireling media conclude that the mujahidin are now extinct and "only a few elements still exist." But it denied this picture of the situation, calling for "a jihad" leading to "victory or martyrdom."

Despite the "AIS leadership's" denial of the fighting among the armed groups, several corroborated reports indicate that confrontations did indeed take place between FIS supporters and GIA supporters in more than one area in Algeria, but not on a large scale.

Observers point out that the "jihad call" was issued yesterday, namely after the failure of the negotiations between FIS leaders and the regime. Observers also noted that that the call was signed by the AIS' "General Command," not the national amir, Madani Mezrak.

Two GIA Support Networks Neutralized in France

95AF0123A Paris LE MONDE in French 21 Jun 95 p 40

[Article by Herve Gattegno and Nathaniel Herzberg: "A Police Operation Was Launched Against Two Islamic Networks in France; Two Branches Supporting the Algerian GIA Have Been Broken Up"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A vast police operation carried out Tuesday morning, 20 June, in about 50 places throughout the country made it possible to break up two new networks supporting the Algerian Armed Islamic Group (GIA). In the early hours of the morning, investigators from the sixth division of the Central Directorate of Judicial Police (DCPJ), the crime squad, and, in certain instances, from the Territorial Surveillance Directorate (DST) undertook a series of searches and detentions for the purpose of questioning—at least 70 were to be expected, it was estimated Tuesday morning by a legal source—in Aubervilliers and La Plaine-Saint-Denis (Seine-Saint-Denis) as well as in Villejuif (Val-de-Marne), Tourcoing, Marseilles, and Orleans. Four hotels in the 18th arrondissement of Paris, which housed GIA sympathizers, were also visited by the police, who were acting principally on behalf of a commission of inquiry made up of three Parisian examining magistrates, Jean-Louis Bruguiere, Jean-Francois Ricard, and Xaviere Simeoni.

General Intelligence's [RG] in-depth work since the breaking up of one former network in November 1994 (LE MONDE, 9 November 1994) seems to be the source of this new operation. Ever since those detentions for the purpose of questioning, which had allowed French police to discover links that existed between underground movements supporting the Algerian underground and some of the most traditional arms of [organized] crime, ranging from holdups to one-armed bandits (LE MONDE, 15 November 1994), Paris RG had not slackened its efforts. The detentions for the purpose of questioning of several sympathizers within the same general movement in early 1995 also made it possible for them to uncover traces of new structures linked to the GIA.

Driven by individuals police confidently termed "fundamentalists," the function of these contacts for the Algerian terrorist movement is to ensure housing and equipment for "filtered out" GIA members and could reveal certain points in common—places or people—with the earlier networks. At first glance, however, they seem more oriented toward political activism, with no apparent links to [organized] crime. The police action on Tuesday did, however, make possible the discovery of major sums of money, which might be the result of *fitra* collection, the tax collected in certain houses of worship and which de facto represents a sort of "revolutionary" tax. Some of these funds might also come from the various trafficking [operations], from pharmaceuticals to cars, aimed at Algeria. Some of the people brought in for questioning are thus suspected of having taken part in secret exports of vehicles either to resell them for the GIA's benefit or to use them to transport weapons and materiel thanks to caches set up for that purpose.

Organized Network

At the heart of the 20 June operation was the firm of ISAG Export, established in 1982 in Villejuif (Val-de-Marne) to engage in "the purchase and export of all types of automotive vehicles and accessories" and whose owner is a 46-year-old Algerian national, which seems to have housed the major share of this trafficking, thanks mostly to a secondary business in Marseilles.

The second phase of the police operation was aimed at another movement giving support to the GIA's networks, one that was uncovered thanks to joint research by the Central Directorate of General Intelligence and the DST. Driven by Algerian students in France, living mainly in the Paris area and in Marseilles, this network apparently made it possible to send to the Algerian underground weapons, munitions, and radio broadcast materiel to the Islamists. This network involved about 10 people, a legal source said.

Finally, the third phase of the operation involved a clandestine immigration network run from Germany by Tunisian Islamists. So, in Paris, police from General Intelligence's 12th section brought in for questioning four Tunisians who had been sought since last March as part of an investigation led by Parisian examining magistrate Xaviere Simeoni. On 20 March, during a check, police discovered a stash of 68 passports, most of them Tunisian, on two Algerians. They also found a list of 128 names making it possible to finger what immediately seems to be a true organized network. At its center is a Tunisian living in Frankfurt, Abderazak Aroum. Arrested on 28 March, he is currently in jail in Germany.

According to police, he helped Algerians and Tunisians to reach France via Germany and the Czech Republic. Those who could immediately paid for their trip, the money aimed at financing the Tunisian Islamic Front (FIT). The others left their passports as security and would pick them up several weeks later when they had collected the money required. It was precisely the two men accused of operating this business whom police brought in for questioning three months ago in what was at that time only a routine check. On Monday, 20 June, though, the operation had been seriously prepared. Six objectives—in the 11th, 18th, 19th, and 20th arrondissements of Paris—had been targeted, two of which had also been chosen by DST police, seemingly as part of the second case.

Sifi Addresses Transitional National Council

LD1707224095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1220 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Speech by Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi to the Transitional National Council on the results of the government program instituted in April 1994, in Algiers on 17 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful; prayers and peace be upon God's prophet [words indistinct]. Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, honorable members of the Transitional National Council; lady and gentlemen members of the government; peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

It gives me pleasure and it is an honor for me to stand before your respected council today, at a time when our dear Algeria is celebrating the 33d anniversary of regaining its independence; celebrating this in sorrow with regard to many, but with pride with regard to all; in difficult economic circumstances with regard to the majority, but with hope that our Algeria — the Algeria which has the men and the resources — will, God willing, succeed in bringing about a final, total, and irrevocable severance from the system that shackled, strangled, gagged, and poisoned it for many a year. That system was made up of men and programs and which — as a result of inefficiency, bribery, feebleness, and treason — led to the current crisis we find ourselves in. That system was responsible for all our ailments. The inefficiency led to abuse, and bribery led to hatred, and abuse and hatred are the plant that feeds extremism and terrorism. We are now gradually striving, and this is not an easy matter, to put an end to the old management programs so that the day will come when no one will be able to get rich at the expense of the people. The people will have to select, by means of elections, those who will run this country so that there will no longer be a place within the state machinery for those who have failed and erred, those who have plundered and embezzled, those who were the cause of the evil, and those who were originally responsible for the thousands of victims of terrorism.

At this historic phase through which our nation is passing I would like highly and strongly to salute all Algerians, men and women, who stood their ground and are standing fast so that Algeria will not [word indistinct] and so that Algeria will remain a nation of freedom and liberties; a nation of liberation; a nation of Islam and democracy; a nation of people and the republic.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen; on 11 April 1994 I agreed, at the request of Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the head of state, to form and lead the government of the transitional period. The main tasks of this government included, within the framework of the platform of national concord, the restoration of the minimum economic and social conditions that would make the resumption of the electoral track possible. It was therefore a foregone conclusion to embark on actions of a political and security nature; this was done under the direct leadership of the head of state in order to give a meaning to the [word indistinct] of the action of the state and government. Thus the government, free from any party bias and as far as possible free from any political stance, embarked on the carrying out of a difficult action in order to reconcile the economic requirements and the urgent social matters which often contradict and oppose each other.

In an atmosphere which became more difficult as a result of thousands of obstacles — including in particular a pressing international financial atmosphere, on the one hand, and an unresolved national atmosphere, on the other — and all that linked to a security situation which strongly diminished the efforts which were being made...[sentence incomplete as heard]

With God's assistance, and thanks to our valiant National People's Army, and thanks to our security services, and thanks to the bravery and self-denial of our cadres, workers, and all the citizens, we succeeded in one year, first — and this is the important thing — in protecting our people, state, and economy from disintegration and collapse. We have succeeded, despite the misleading campaigns and all types of pressure, in protecting and improving our international relations with foreign establishments and states. [passage omitted]

We have succeeded in checking the decline in the growth of our economy, in creating investments, in building houses and basic establishments, and in limiting inflation and budget deficit. [passage omitted]

At any rate, there are considerable positive tendencies that today appear on our economic horizons, tendencies that have also been noticed by knowledgeable, neutral experts known for their great honest thought. Among these major positive developments I can mention the following. First, a real and considerable revival of the sector of construction and public works, which is confirmed in the speed of the delivery of houses and the rapid absorption of shanty dwellings throughout the country, and a total and final purge by the end of July 1995 — God willing — of all the institutions of construction and public works at regional and national levels.

Thus, our country will, from now until the end of this month, finally have enterprises in the construction sector all of which will be effective, capable of shouldering their own programs, and confronting the reality on the ground. [passage omitted]

Second, starting to ensure that Algeria recovers its agricultural nature through the liberalization of the agricultural sector from bureaucratic pressures, involving producers and professionals, charging them with carrying out their responsibilities, and encouraging the national agricultural food product. This is the work which has been consolidated by the start of the large projects in this sector.

Third, the special work on restructuring, and the optimal use of our tools for the production of commodities and services. The industrial branch is expected soon to achieve the more important and beneficial industrial production which that always accompanies technological development, and successfully strengthens the expansion of investment in the small and medium-size enterprises.

Fourth, the continued effort to equip and prepare the provinces, in which the development of the railway network, highways, telecommunications, and the multiplicity of dams and mountain dams become a revival factor for a new life for the Algerian hinterland, allowing for the appearance of new towns, and restoring balance to population distribution and activities throughout the national territory.

In this respect, the choice of the Greater South is considered strategic. It is the only choice that could respond to the demographic and economic challenges characterizing the Algeria of the 21st century.

Fifth, to open the Algerian market for private initiatives and for international companies, a matter which has begun to yield very encouraging results despite the security pressures. This proves the strong capability of our country to attract foreign capitals and investments as soon as the political situation becomes more stable.

Sixth, to establish gradually and consistently the elements of the market economy. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: there is a Chinese proverb that says: If you want to feed a person you should not give him a fish; teach him how to fish for himself. While our task ends in several months' time, our hope is that our country will at the beginning of the new year 1996 find among the men and women it will elect some who will have the wisdom to continue to apply this proverb to our economy, which today inspires the endeavors of the transitional period government and the reforms which we are carrying out in the interest of our people, especially in the interest of our youth, who impatiently expect a great deal, and rightly so. [passage omitted]

I have repeatedly reiterated that we have succeeded, but once again I clarify that we have not been on our own. We would not have been able to succeed without the aid, support, and guidance of President Liamine Zeroual. We would not have been able to succeed without consultation with our social partners and their understanding and help, and I mean the trade unions, employers, and the National Economic and Social Council.

We would not have been able to succeed without your support, you as members of this esteemed council, here in this hall and in other areas. We would not have succeeded without the mobilization of our people, because every success requires a price to be paid.

To reform our economic situation we had to tighten belts, accept the sacrifice in the form of a temporary reduction in purchasing power, and work more. Without these sacrifices, which are inescapable, we would not have been able or capable, in any reasonable way, of doing something.

We have succeeded in reviving hope among our people, and in reviving hope in our people we have managed to destroy all the wishes of the enemies of our country, inside and abroad, aiming at undermining the status of Algeria and making it a pawn, a stooge to the East or subjected to the West.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen: It is not customary for a government to praise itself but, with your understanding and in light of the difficult path we have followed since April 1994, allow me to describe this government, which remains the government of the transitional period, as a government of resistance, like the people we belong to. [passage omitted]

We should not be and we are not at war with our [word indistinct]. Those who took up arms against their country should know that they serve neither God Almighty, nor justice, nor democracy, and that they can objectively serve only the forces which are hostile to our country. In particular they should be convinced that their actions are doomed to failure because Almighty God condemns them, and because the people condemn them, and because logic condemns them.

I have talked about national reconciliation: it is necessary [17-second break in transmission] by respecting the laws and through a condemnation of terrorism, an unconditional and straightforward condemnation and a rejection of violence, a total, unreserved, and clear rejection. When will some political parties finally understand that the time has come to let the people express their opinion? How many more deaths are needed for the leaders of these parties to recover their senses? How many more Algerian men and women need to be assassinated for the leaders of these parties to say: It is enough — the people have suffered a lot, let them express their opinion. How many more deaths are needed? How many more lives? How many more widows? How many more orphans? How many more? How many want dialogue and reconciliation to stop the deaths? Dialogue and reconciliation are needed to bring back a smile and eliminate sadness and fear. Dialogue and reconciliation are needed to let the people choose their leaders and their fate.

As for those who are thirsty for power and yearning for it and who have suddenly woken up after thousands of casualties and who now want to save the country which they themselves wrecked in the past, I read to them, with the confidence of someone who does not crave power or aspire to it, this verse from God's book: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Women impure are for men impure, and men impure are for women impure; and women of purity for men of purity and men of purity for women of purity: these are not affected by what people say; for them there is forgiveness and generous provision.

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, honorable members of the Transitional National Council: in your hands please find an outcome of the work of the government — it is a document consisting of reports which in our view reflect the reality of our activities in the field. Our views are not necessarily the best. The reason for our presence here with you is that you should contribute to the enlightenment of our endeavor. Awaiting your queries, views, and proposals, I would like to thank you for listening. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'Sources' Identify Mubarak Attack Culprits

NC1707203095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1945 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Sources in Khartoum that are linked to Sudanese security have told AL-AKHBAR that Sudanese intelligence smuggled to Khartoum three members of the terrorist group that participated in the Addis Ababa assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak. The three terrorists were wounded by shots from bodyguards' weapons.

In its 18 July issue, AL-AKHBAR says the Sudanese regime, including Sudanese intelligence agents, acted illegally in supervising the terrorist operation. Some Sudanese intelligence commanders were in the Ethiopian capital during the operation, the sources added.

The sources named the three terrorists who arrived in Khartoum. They are Sudanese nationals and are security service members. The terrorists are: Hisham Muhammad Jad al-Mawla, al-Tayyib Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim, and Muhammad Siraj. The sources added that Hisham Muhammad Jad al-Mawla, who is from al-Nil al-Abyad Island, succumbed to his wounds an hour after he was admitted to the Sudanese Military Medical Services Hospital. The Khartoum sources said he had been tortured physically by Sudanese authorities as part of their attempt to conceal their involvement in the Addis Ababa incident.

The sources noted that al-Tayyib Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim is from Jazirat Aba. He is wounded and being treated in the army hospital in Khartoum. He could also be physically liquidated.

Regarding Muhammad Siraj, the mastermind and leader of the terrorist group involved in the Addis Ababa crime, he was injured and admitted to the hospital. However, he escaped; he feared for his life after failing to carry out the crime.

Citing the sources, AL-AKHBAR says the escape of the third defendant has caused Sudanese security authorities to panic. The paper adds that frenzied, extensive searches are taking place; he possesses dangerous documents that incriminate the Sudanese regime's involvement.

AL-AKHBAR says this information was obtained from reliable sources. The information confirms undoubtedly that the al-Bashir al-Turabi regime is involved in the vile assassination attempt on President Mubarak. It says their objective was to shake Egypt's security and stability after failing to support the export of agents and terrorists to Egypt.

Musa, Ministers Discuss Security, Sudan

NC1707191795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a meeting today under Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and discussed a significant report on Egyptian national security. The report mentioned direct and indirect threats to national security from foreign forces that aim to harm Egypt and its system of government. An example of this is the sinful attack on President Mubarak that was intended to damage Egypt's role in the region.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made this statement. He said the interior minister presented a detailed report to the Council of Ministers. The report pointed out that the activities of terrorist groups abroad are linked to some foreign elements and countries that sponsor terrorism. He also stated that Sudan's involvement in terrorist plots was no surprise; there is confirmed information about the activities of terrorist groups in Sudan and about the presence of over 50 locations where terrorists of various citizenships are trained. In addition, Sudan smuggles weapons and supports fugitive extremist cadres who are encouraged to return to Egypt. The interior minister's report noted surprise that the Sudanese ruling regime was involved in the conspiracy to attack President Mubarak.

The information minister added that the Council of Ministers' discussions on Egypt's challenges and the conspiracies against it resulted in many important decisions and recommendations. The Council aims to raise overall Egyptian national security standards— politically, socially, and economically—and to strengthen the state against the attempts of infiltrators to harm Egyptian security.

The information minister said the interior minister's report pointed out that all scenarios had been considered, as had expanding and developing security objectives based on recent developments. The interior minister stated that the elements involved in the attempt to assassinate President Mubarak used Sudan as a strategic planning base and that direct instructions had been issued by fugitive leaders with strong ties to the leaders of Hasan al-Turabi's National Islamic Front.

The interior minister discussed the alertness of the Egyptian security forces and their interception of radio receivers en route to the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo, as well as packages and envelopes that contained terrorist equipment. The equipment had originated in an Asian country and was bound for Sudan through Cairo. Further, Egyptian security seized equipment for forging identification cards, passports, and Egyptian currency to support infiltration operations into Egypt.

The interior minister said in his report that the Sudanese regime's actions compelled Egypt to impose visa requirements on Sudanese citizens travelling to Egypt. On this, the Council of Ministers noted that Sudanese citizens who want to enter or depart Egypt are given special services. Concluding his report to the Council, the interior minister said internal security was stable and terrorist elements were being fully confronted. He pointed out the weapons and explosives smuggled from Sudan that were recently seized in Kawm Umbu.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that the Council of Ministers reviewed a comprehensive report submitted by Minister of Transport and Communications Engineer Sulayman Mutawalli on ways to implement the Cairo metro project. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said the Council of Ministers reviewed during the meeting a report submitted by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Musa's report noted the results of the Algerian and Yemeni presidents' visits to Cairo and the recently received messages of President Husni Mubarak from a number of Arab kings and leaders. Musa mentioned the results of the meetings of the Damascus Declaration countries' foreign ministers regarding political, economic, and security cooperation among these countries. The foreign minister also reviewed the progress of the Arab-Israeli tracks negotiations and efforts to reach agreement between the Israelis and the Palestinians by the set date—25 July—on expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank. He also discussed the meetings planned for this week between President Mubarak and Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. 'Amr Musa's report described the Sudanese ruling regime's role in exporting and sheltering terrorist elements as dangerous, as well as the threat this poses to neighboring countries.

He also noted that world opinion of the Sudanese regime was negative. The foreign minister's report touched on the erroneous acts of the Sudanese regime, its intentional escalation acts, and its repeated attacks on the historic relations between the two countries that should not be harmed.

On Egyptian-Ethiopian relations, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa noted that these relations were strong and that both countries want to develop them due to the mutual respect between them. In his report, the foreign minister referred to the deteriorating situation in Bosnia; the Council of Ministers condemned Serbian aggression. The Council demanded that the Bosnian people be allowed to defend themselves and that the weapons embargo should be lifted due to the repeated Serbian attacks on Bosnia and its defenseless areas.

Sudanese Embassy Families Sent Home From Cairo

NC1807100595 Paris AFP in English
0951 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 18 (AFP) — Sudan is preparing to send home the families of its 40 embassy staff in Egypt amid increased tension in relations between Cairo and Khartoum, embassy spokesman Sulayman 'Abd-al-Tawwab said Tuesday [18 July].

He told AFP that the Sudanese government had "decided to repatriate the family members of the diplomatic mission in Cairo, about 250 people, and preparations are already underway."

Three Sudanese diplomats attacked Sunday in Cairo allegedly by Egyptian security agents will also leave the country on Wednesday, two for Khartoum.

But first secretary 'Abd-al-'Azim al-Amin Muhammad is to be sent to London for treatment "because his condition is quite serious," 'Abd-al-Tawwab said.

Egyptian President Husni Mubarak offered to pay the three's medical costs, but Sudan refused.

The Egyptian media has blamed Sudan for starting things, saying six Egyptian diplomats were set upon and beaten up in Khartoum on Saturday, one of them seriously.

'Abd-al-Tawwab denied as "baseless" newspaper allegations that three members of Sudan's security forces were behind the June 26 assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

The government daily Al-Akhbar Tuesday, quoting sources in Khartoum's security services, named the three as Hashim Muhammed Jad-al-Mawla, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Tayyib and Muhammad Siraj. One was killed in the gun attack, one is still in hospital and a third fled.

Meanwhile, the official Sudanese news agency SUNA said 26 Sudanese nationals had been refused entry to Egypt on arriving at Cairo airport, and turned back even though they had visas.

And it charged that 32 Sudanese were held at the airport for 15 hours before being allowed into the country on Sunday.

Egypt only introduced this month entry visa requirements for Sudanese, after relations plunged when Mubarak accused Sudan of masterminding the attempt on his life.

And Sudanese officials are to petition Khartoum to expel more than 50 Egyptians working in irrigation offices in southern Sudan, accusing Cairo of backing the leader of Sudan's rebel forces Colonel John Garang, SUNA said.

Editorial Criticizes Sudanese Regime

NC1607055895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0510 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 16 Jul (MENA)—The Newspaper AL-AHRAM stresses that Egypt will not interfere in Sudan's affairs because it is interested in maintaining the eternal relations and strong bonds linking the Egyptian and Sudanese peoples and because it believes that Egypt provides strategic depth for Sudan and Sudan does the same for Egypt, despite the attempts by the ruling duo— al-Turabi and al-Bashir—to change these facts. In an editorial in the Sunday issue, the paper says that the Sudanese regime continues its futile attempts to distort the glorious facts of Egyptian- Sudanese history. This regime dreads facing the Sudanese people and so it sends envoys to Arab and international capitals and to the United Nations to complain about Egypt. The paper says that if this regime holds a popular referendum, the results will be disappointing to al-Bashir and al-Turabi.

AL-AHRAM says that in his message to the UN Security Council, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa explained the facts to the Sudanese public first and to the Arab and world public, exposing the Sudanese regime's historical and political fallacies, the persecution of Egyptian nationals working in Sudan, and its excesses against Egypt, its president, and government. The paper notes that Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif emphasized that Hala'ib is Egyptian territory and so the Sudanese regime should look for other excuses in its persistent attempt to assail Egypt and its people.

Refusal To Host Palestinian-Israeli Talks Reported

JN1707120995 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
17 Jul 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has refused to host the Palestinian-Israeli talks on implementing the second stage of the Oslo agreement, and this led the two sides to move the talks to Italy before holding them in Zikhron, in northern Israel.

AL-MAJD learned that Usamah al-Baz, political adviser to the Egyptian president, has told 'Arafat that Egypt opposes dividing the final solution stipulated in the Oslo agreement into chapters and parts.

Al-Baz said Egypt believes that the Palestinian concessions are an unjustified mistake, and that 'Arafat's acceptance of dividing the final solution means loss of this solution and acceptance of all Israeli demands.

When 'Arafat failed to respond to the Egyptian demand to stop concessions under the pretext that he does not have any other option because the Arabs abandoned him, al-Baz told him: Egypt, which does not agree with you concerning the policy of division and installments, cannot accept the results of this policy before the Arab world by hosting you on its land and naming your agreement after one of the Egyptian landmarks, the same as you did when you named a previous agreement the Cairo Agreement.

Musa on Upcoming Mubarak-'Arafat-Peres Meeting

NC1707183495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1655 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that the tripartite meeting President Husni Mubarak will hold on 19 July in Alexandria with Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will discuss the major issues that are still points of conflict between the Palestinians and Israelis on reaching an agreement before 25 July and implementing the second stage of the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles.

The foreign minister said the objective of the meeting is to set a solid basis for the final Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

PLO's Qaddumi Ends Visit, Leaves for Yemen

NC1707183395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1625 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)—PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi left Cairo for Sanaa this afternoon to begin a three-day visit to Yemen.

In a predeparture statement, Qaddumi said he will hold talks with Yemeni officials on ways to restore Arab solidarity. He said he hopes the Arab leaders will work more actively to achieve this objective.

On recent developments in the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks, Qaddumi noted that the U.S. sponsor of the peace process must put more pressure on the Israelis to adhere to the principles of the political settlement. He said these include withdrawal from the occupied territories, not a mere redeployment.

Musa Meets Ambassadors, Conveys Bosnia Concerns

NC1707103395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1000 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Jul (MENA)— Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today summoned the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Following his meeting with the five ambassadors, Musa said that he conveyed to them Egypt's dismay at the situation in Bosnia which is a result of hesitation in adopting the necessary policies, and the unfairness of these policies in the situation there.

Musa affirmed to the ambassadors that the prevailing conditions require lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia, since its continued imposition does not enable, or rather prevents the Bosnian people from defending themselves.

The foreign minister added that these developments will be discussed by the Islamic liaison committee due to meet in Rabat on Friday [21 July].

Responding to a question on the French position on the Bosnia crisis, the foreign minister said this position is a progressive one. What counts is for that position to be implemented, he said.

Musa added that he explained to the five ambassadors that much is being said and suggested but that nothing has been done. The situation in Bosnia is deteriorating, he remarked.

In another development, French Ambassador in Cairo Patrick Leclercq said that the foreign minister conveyed to the ambassadors Egypt's deep concern at developments in Bosnia.

The ambassador added that what is happening in Bosnia causes everyone concern and that the five states are considering measures to confront the Serbian aggression.

Tantawi Attends Pilots,' Navigators' Graduation

NC1507153695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1250 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Bilbays, 15 Jul (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commanding general of the armed forces and minister of defense and war production, has affirmed that with God's help, Egypt is capable of deterring anyone who contemplates tampering with its resources or the lives of its great people, adding that the Armed Forces are capable of defending the Egyptian nation's security.

Speaking at the graduation of 62 fighter pilots and 33 navigators at the Air Force Academy in Bilbays today, Tantawi said that the air force gets special attention among the joint forces in view of its decisive role in settling air disputes and the effective part it plays in achieving victory.

He added that this is a historic fact that was demonstrated during the glorious October 1973 war, when High Commander President Husni Mubarak was commander of the Air Force.

He pointed out that careful planning and distinctive performance were behind the surprise first strike with which the Air Force protected the homeland's skies and the ground forces as they crossed the Suez Canal [in October 1973] to carry out their combat mission on the soil of Sinai. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Bans Entry of Satellite Receivers, Decoders

NC1807073495 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Ministers has decided to ban the entry of satellite receivers and decoders and to take all necessary measures to prevent the smuggling of such equipment into Egypt. It also decided to ban advertising the sale of this equipment in Egypt and to authorize the prime minister to make the necessary decisions to guarantee implementation of this decision in accordance with law No. 13 of 1979. This law designates the Radio and Television Union alone to deal with all matters pertaining to radio and television transmission to preserve and safeguard the society's values, ethics, and traditions. Stating this, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that the decision was made in line with the memorandum forwarded by the Information Ministry. He said that the cabinet legislative committee has been entrusted with drawing up the necessary decisions.

Correction to al-Baz Lectures on Peace

NC1407144095

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Al-Baz Gives Lecture on Peace, Terrorism, Sudan," published in the 12 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 13:

Make sourceline read: ...Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Jul 95. (Correcting date)

Libya

Fundamentalist Activities in Country Investigated

'Extremist Elements' Discovered

MM1807074495 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Jul 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Egyptians and Sudanese Behind Fundamentalist Activities in Libya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tripoli, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The organized campaign carried out by the Libyan security authorities after the Banghazi incidents has revealed the involvement of Egyptian and Sudanese extremists in the activities of fundamentalist groups in Libya. It has been learned that a number of extremists, some of them holding Sudanese citizenship and others Egyptian citizenship, have been detained and that 300 others who used to work in various government departments have been expelled.

The Libyan authorities had admitted infiltration of extremist elements from abroad. The General People's Congress (parliament), which met recently and reshuffled the government, called for the reinforcement of the justice and interior ministries' capabilities in order to destroy "organized crime and those who break law and tradition." That was an indirect reference to the fundamentalist groups.

Western and Arab intelligence sources have confirmed that the Libyan authorities have launched a concerted campaign against extremist groups. According to travelers from Libya, the security forces have stepped up their presence in Banghazi where, according to some sources, a group of Libyan oppositionists managed to storm one of the prisons and to release some detainees who were members of fundamentalist groups.

In the course of the Libyan campaign against extremist groups, a severe blow was dealt to the biggest activist groups in Libya, namely the Islamic Group and the Islamic Liberation Party. Libya also concluded a series of security agreements with Algeria and Egypt with a view to taking joint steps against the extremists groups operating in the region.

The sources maintain that the extremists infiltrated and practically controlled a section of the Libyan intelligence headquarters in the south which was responsible for watching Sudan and Chad. The Libyan authorities used to tolerate them while their activities were focused on Egypt and Algeria.

Egypt and Algeria, however, supplied Libya with some voluminous information proving that Libya itself was now a target of the international extremist organizations linked to Sudan, Iran, and Afghanistan.

That information was, according to these sources, based on information from Western intelligence sources operating in Sudan. That indicates that the West, which launched an international political and diplomatic campaign against Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi over the Lockerbie incident, does not want an extremist regime to replace al-Qadhdhafi's regime in Libya.

Algerian President Liamine Zeroual had warned al-Qadhdhafi twice that Libya is now a target of the extremists who wanted to destabilize the situation in Egypt and Algeria.

At the beginning of this month, Libyan Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Majid al-Qa'ud, accompanied by other Libyan officials, visited Algeria to put the final touches to an agreement on joint action against the extremists.

The alarm bells were sounded during the Banghazi disturbances this month.

Although, according to eyewitnesses, the disturbances were minor and were quickly put down by the security forces, they demonstrated that the extremists now had an organizational power enabling them to carry out acts of violence against the government in the second biggest Libyan city.

Most supporters of these extremist groups were recruited from the Egyptian and Sudanese communities working in Libya. That is why the Libyan authorities turned a blind eye on the grounds that they would eventually be operating outside the country.

Western and Arab intelligence sources say that Libya closed a road previously used by the armed fundamentalist group in Algeria to smuggle arms from Sudan to Algeria via Libyan territory.

According to Western analysts, Libya is not out of danger yet because the extremists still have organizational capabilities but they are unlikely to reach the levels reached in Algeria or Egypt.

Al-Qadhdhafi Said 'Hostage' to Fundamentalists

MM1807102295 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Jul 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Al-Ghadamisi: Libyan Regime Used Fundamentalists Before and Is Now Held to Ransom by Them"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — 'Izz-al-Din al-Ghadamisi, official spokesman for the opposition "Coordination Committee of the Libyan National and Democratic Forces," led by Major 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Huni, has said that the Libyan regime "had tried to use the fundamentalist card in relations with neighboring and world states, but it is now being held to ransom by the fundamentalists themselves, whose role is growing in terms of effectiveness and organization." He stressed that Libyan officers abroad "are exposed to daily threats by the Libyan regime's organs." And that Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud "continues to defy the regime."

Al-Ghadamisi said: "Anyone monitoring Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi since he seized power will clearly notice his continued attempts to exploit the organizations present on the Arab and other scenes, whose presence in Libya he thinks is weak, in a bid to secure — according to his belief — a mechanism to achieve his aims in numerous Arab states while safeguarding his security and that of his regime. That prompted him to try to use some Islamists to achieve his political ambitions in the Arab and other regions. Thus he financed and continues to finance some of these organizations. And he set up the world Islamic refuge [mathabah] to contain and guide them. And he assigned the Islamic al-Da'wah Society, the richest Libyan establishment, to supervise Islamic movements in the world — including in the Philippines, Mauritania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Arab states, and Indonesia."

He added that "political ideological organizations (the fundamentalists in particular) have dealings with al-Qadhdhafi because of certain necessities and also within the framework of their strategy and for tactical interim reasons.

"And now that these fundamentalist organizations have grown on the Arab scene in terms of effectiveness and organization, al-Qadhdhafi is now actually being held to ransom by these movements, on the grounds that they are his main line of defense in view of his crises with the West, especially the Lockerbie crisis and its ramifications."

He added: "Al-Qadhdhafi's repeated threats that he would give the fundamentalists a free hand throughout North Africa in order to ignite the fires of war against the West's crusade confirm beyond doubt that al-Qadhdhafi — now that the attempts by numerous Arab states to resolve the Lockerbie crisis have failed — firmly believes that he can only extricate himself from the crisis by playing the fundamentalist card. And that the more active they are and the more weapons they have in the region, the more al-Qadhdhafi feels that the West will submit and accept a solution to the Lockerbie crisis — a solution that keeps him in power."

At another level, al-Qadhdhafi [as published] pointed out that Libyan officers — mostly pilots — seeking asylum in Egypt are exposed to daily threats from elements of al-Qadhdhafi's regime and intelligence services.following the regime's failure to persuade the Egyptian authorities to hand them over, despite the substantial offers made. While condemning the attempts of al-Qadhdhafi and his services and their continued harassment of these honorable officers who fled with their aircraft to Egypt when al-Qadhdhafi ordered them to use them against Egypt's security and people, the Coordination Committee salutes the Egyptian authorities' noble position, their rejection of all al-Qadhdhafi's offers, and continuing respect for anyone seeking refuge on Egypt's territory."

He pointed out that "Al-Qadhdhafi's regime has accustomed us to the fact that it will not limit itself to harassment and threats but will try to use its other means, which are known to everyone."

On the issue of Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud, al-Ghadamisi stressed that he continues "to defy al-Qadhdhafi personally. And deliberately uses social occasions, where there are huge crowds of citizens, to talk about the corruption spreading inside the regime and the deteriorating economic conditions, holding al-Qadhdhafi responsible for what is going to happen to the homeland and its citizens — which has prompted al-Qadhdhafi to punish anyone who invites Maj. 'Abd-al-Salam to any social occasion. As is known, al- Qadhdhafi boycotted the wedding party of former Prime Minister Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi's son when he knew that Jallud would be there, and he ordered that al-Talhi be interrogated."

Sudan

Al-Bashir Views Past Relations With Egypt

EA1707211095 Khartoum SUNA in English
1726 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Milleit, northern Darfur, July 17 (SUNA) — President of the Republic General 'Umar al-Bashir has pointed out that Sudan is facing aggressions from Western countries which aim to pressure Sudan to abandon its Islamic orientation.

Addressing a mass rally in Milleit town al-Fasher Province, al-Bashir said that the aggressions and hostilities will render Sudan more adherent to the Islamic orientation and values. He also tackled the recent proclamations by the Egyptian regime stating that remnants of the dissolved parties were conspiring with the Egyptian regime against Sudan.

Al-Bashir affirmed that Sudan has no problem with the Egyptian people and army explaining that the Sudanese Armed Forces earlier fought Israel alongside the Egytian Army. He said that the Sudanese Armed Forces will once again support the Egyptian Army if it entered war with Israel.

Al-Bashir reiterated that Sudan will not relinquish any part of its land and will never respond to colonialist plots.

Al-Bashir meanwhile praised adherence of Darfur State's citizens to the Islamic principles and values besides their historic role in fighting colonialists.

He referred to seditions and tribal conflicts in Sudan during the past partisan government era, adding that the revolution has been calling for national unity adherence to the Islamic values and creation of the Muslim society.

Al-Turabi Views Nature of Islam, Arab World

NC1807063095 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
15 Jul 95 p 12

[Interview with Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front, by Amin Qammuriyah, in Khartoum; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Qammuriyah] Is the Arab and Islamic Popular Conference that you lead a framework for an international Islamic organization?

[Al-Turabi] The Conference is not a central organization led by a particular person or committee that moves all the rest. The Conference brings together Muslims everywhere: political parties, private societies, and intellectual celebrities from all parts of the world. Our annual meeting brings all Muslims together and rises above such distinctions as Shiism, Sunnism, nationalities, ethnic affiliations, and so on. This is the Conference. It gives birth to more conferences: Muslim women's conferences, youth conferences, merchants' conferences. This is the Conference. It is not very active between one annual meeting and another except to implement the earlier meeting's recommendations and mediate between a government and its opposition. It is a symbol of the Islamic nation's unity and an expression of it. You know, of course, that official bodies like the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Arab League are not truly representative of the Islamic nation. They are not very effective. This does not mean that our Conference does not include ruling parties as participants. Sometimes ruling parties attend our meetings but not in their capacity as ruling parties. They attend in their capacity as political forces. The Conference is no more than this.

[Qammuriyah] On what points do your theories agree with Iran's Islamic Revolution and on what points do they differ?

[Al-Turabi] You mean here in Sudan?

[Qammuriyah] Yes.

[Al-Turabi] [passage omitted] Islam in Sudan is an evolutionary thing rather than an eruption. The Islamic movement began here as an intellectual movement in the 1950's. It then developed and penetrated the women's movement and helped liberate women. It penetrated the economic movement: banks, companies, development projects, and charitable societies. In Sudan Islam is an evolutionary phenomenon. In Iran it is revolutionary. Here in Sudan we do not bother much with denominational divisions. I personally do not call myself a Sunni or Shiite in a factional sense. Nor do I like anyone to label me as Sunni or Shiite. I approve of every sect in Muslim history that did good things. I support every good faction and oppose every bad faction. The relationship between Sudan and Iran is slight. Financial ties and trade exchange are slight. Iran is of course far from Sudan. Iran is also imbued with a Persian spirit. Sudan is more open because it speaks Arabic. Arabic has now spread throughout Sudan and the country has become entirely Arab. Formerly half the Sudanese people spoke Arabic and the other half spoke more than a hundred other languages. Sudan is African and has many neighbors. It is both African and Arab but as a separate country it has no history. Its people have different histories and that is why we have no national chauvinistic spirit based on history. The name of the country, Sudan, is a derivative of the word that refers to our color, not to our history [reference to apparent derivation from the Arabic plural noun sud which means black people]. For this reason, we are more open to other people. We are not locked in one country, one history, one ethnic group, or one language. We are relatively more open and more advanced than they are and [illegible] this reason Islamic values could be more easily applied to our economic, social, artistic, and political life. The Iranians are still driven by a revolutionary spirit which has started to permeate their life but has not gone through all the way. Revolutions are like that. This is the real and ordinary difference between Sudan and Iran. The Americans are the movers behind the Western media. Westerners use the term fundamentalism. This is an American word that applies to Christianity, actually. Fundamentalism is a Christian movement and means literal belief in old texts. The Americans attack Iran because the Iranian revolution provoked them. They were provoked by the images of their Tehran embassy under siege and by seeing their diplomats blindfolded on television screens. That is why they tried to attack Iran in the days of President Jimmy Carter. Carter's fall was caused by it. For this reason they came to believe that any Islamic phenomenon would be the same as Iran's and so they automatically began to hate us.

[Qammuriyah] Your political adversaries accuse you of trying to establish an Islamic empire extending from Egypt to Tanzania. Do you indeed entertain this dream?

[Al-Turabi] But I do not call it an empire. When Islam emerged it was surrounded by emperors—Khosrau and Caesar—from the east and west. Islam does not build imperialist empires because this represents domination, hegemony, and exploitation. That is a Western concept. It was they who established colonialist empires to exploit the wealth of mankind and subjugate it. They sold and continue to sell millions of us as slaves in America. They enslaved them for agriculture and plundered their resources without recompense.

But when the Muslims went to other countries to build Hejaz, they did not do so with the money of Spain, Central Asia, or North Africa. The Muslims are not imperialists. The Muslims are a nation. Europe is now one empire. After the wars they waged and which they called world wars—World War I and World War II—and during which millions were killed, the imperialists want the rich to meet with the rich, the strong with the strong, and the emperor with another emperor in a group which they call "community" [preceding word in English].

The world is coming together thanks to current facilities in the transportation and communications systems. So what is wrong if the Islamic nation, which is rich in history, culture, and civilization, tries to come together step by step? I dream of achieving this. Are these geographical borders sanctified by God or are they imperialist borders? What about the borders in the Arab world? Were they not delineated by Sykes-Picot? Some countries are in fact villages and yet they call themselves countries.

All the borders around us are neither natural nor social borders. That is why I am dreaming of and working to gather the Muslims in one nation. This nation will cooperate with the rest of mankind through peace, dialogue, and trade exchange to organize the world order. These are not dreams. These are plans indeed. All the Muslims will work together to implement these plans.

[Qammuriyah] Obviously, there is no amity between you and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. He even accused you personally of what happened in Ethiopia. What is your comment?

[Al-Turabi] The last time we were members of a party, although I am not a partisan, I cooperated with Islamic movements and trends. I also cooperated with five powers bearing different names. They represented a specific grouping to confront certain challenges. But the last grouping, which did not last long, emerged after the collapse of the Numayri regime. This grouping was called the national Islamic front and it was the first political movement. It included as members women, southerners, northerners, intellectuals, and workers.

A delegation of this grouping visited Egypt and met with brother President Mubarak. We had a long talk with him. We told him why do you not unify Sudan and Egypt and send millions of Egyptians to settle in Sudan where there is a lot of rain and a lot of ground water in addition to the Nile? He apologized because America does not want the Arabs to exploit their resources. Therefore, he could not do that. I talked to him about Egypt today, Islam. I asked him why does Egypt not apply Islam to all walks of life? He said that the West does not want us to do that. But some Islamic movements here are currently pressuring him. These movements should, however, understand that he cannot support this trend. Our talk was extremely interesting.

I also met with the prime minister, al-Azhar imam, the Coptic shaykh [al—Turabi laughs], the foreign minister, and a number of ministers. I also met with a number of journalists and professors. Since then and until recently we had never said anything against the Egyptian regime. The problem is about Islam in Sudan. Egypt is envious. It is envious because a country that was colonized by Egypt is competing with it over the issue of Islam, although Egypt is known for its deep Islamic roots. Egypt is envious because a country that was colonized by Egypt managed to mobilize economic resources and to achieve this huge renaissance. Egypt, like England, is jealous of us because both were partners in colonizing us. It is Arabs colonizing Arabs and Muslims colonizing Muslims. That is the reason. He seizes every opportunity to lash out at us. Take for example the last incident [Addis Ababa attempt]. Although he could identify the attackers as being Egyptians—the Sudanese can be distinguished from the Egyptian by his color—he started to name names. That is what actually happened.

[Qammuriyah] After what happened, will you be renewing your proposal to bring Egyptian agricultural workers to Sudan?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, my dear brother. That is a strategy that is not affected by differences between the governments, nor do policies influence it. That is something I do not want for myself or for my personal life. It is something I want for the life of these people over the centuries. I prefer Sudan and Egypt to open up to each other rather than fight now over borders they [the British and Egyptians] drew, borders that were demarcated when they [the British] colonized Sudan.

Sudan became independent in 1956 and they did not notice anything. They recognized Sudan as it is. Now, they are claiming that that is the main issue. What we drew up at the beginning of the century was wrong. I hope that the borders between Sudan and Egypt will open up. Egypt's population is now increasing by 1 million every six months and they do not have enough land to live on and cultivate along the Nile at all. On the other hand, Sudan is a country with a small population. If Sudan's population increases by tenfold now, it would still have a low population rate in relation to its size and its other agricultural capabilities.

[Qammuriyah] You have been quoted as threatening to cut Egypt's share of the Nile waters. Will you be carrying out such a threat if relations between the two countries deteriorate?

[Al-Turabi] This agreement (the Nile water agreement of 1959) was imposed on us during colonial times. In Egypt, they have no water source, neither on land nor from the sky, other than the Nile. However, I have told them that if they violate the international agreements with Sudan, even on those borders that they have drawn up, then this will be a provocation that will anger Sudan. First, Sudan is now granting them a part of its own share. Second, deep down Sudan would like to give Egypt more water. It does not need more than its share because its share is enough now and sometimes it does not use it. Third, the Nile does not start in Sudan; it starts in Ethiopia and Uganda. If these countries come forward and say that we need to settle this issue, then two of these people cannot settle the problem and ignore the other two. Sudan cannot say no to them. I would like to warn them that between the two of us, the water flows from us to them. They do not recognize Arabism between us; they do not recognize us as Arabs and have claimed that we are barbarians; they do not recognize us as Muslims and claim that we are religiously simple-minded while they are saints and priests of the Islamic religion. Between the two of us, water flows from us to them. I wanted to remind them of that.

[Qammuriyah] In your opinion, how should the relationship between Egypt and Sudan be?

[Al-Turabi] This colonization spirit, started by Muhammad 'Ali Pasha, must change. During pharaonic times, the pharaohs were Sudanese and Egyptians united. Egypt and Sudan should have such a spirit between them now. Muhammad 'Ali Pasha planted the spirit of colonization over Sudan, not the spirit of expanding power in the Arab countries as he expanded into greater Syria where he wanted to rally support against Turkey. Here, however, he planted the spirit of colonialism. And this spirit continues to reign among the ruling group.

If this spirit is not eliminated, it will affect relations. Egyptian books nowadays write that the first article of Egyptian national security is to maintain weak governments in Sudan, which is what the colonizing power always wants, even after withdrawal. The southern world must remain weak for them to be able to take their share from a distance. This spirit is useless because Sudan has just started to rise and Sudan's wealth is not comparable to Egypt's wealth. Sudan's habitable areas are many times greater than those of Egypt. Sudan's oil, mineral, animal, natural, and agricultural wealth is not comparable to Egypt's in the first place. With regard to Islam, I do not think God Almighty restricts religion to one country. If He had wanted to restrict it to one country, he would not have favored giving it to the illiterate Arab world over the educated people; He would have given it to Rome or Persia. This spirit must undoubtedly change. Enter the Americans. A big American church wanted to mediate between us and Egypt. Alas, who is the mediator between us and Egypt? A ranking American cleric. But he then retracted and said that there is nothing between you and Egypt except the issue of Islam.

It is a shame for us to approach the official sides in the United States and the church. It is a shame for us to even approach the state because it is the one creating problems between us and Egypt more than the old spirit was. Egypt's policy must become independent from the West.

[Qammuriyah] Your stand on peace with Israel is known. If Syria concludes peace with Israel under its declared conditions, will you change that position?

[Al-Turabi] That would be the most abhorrent Arab situation. The original Arab stand on which the Arab nation—both peoples and governments—are unanimous is that the nation does not condone the invasion of Arab land by one who takes the land by terrorism and force.

If the United States accepts this, it is because the United States was originally founded on this principle. America was the land of the red Indians. The Americans were not guests who those people accepted so the country could be ruled by democracy and a parliament. They took the country by killing, violence, and destruction. Principles should remain firm even if the real situation does not permit realization of such principles.

Who knows? Circumstances might change, but principles must be preserved. People's acceptance of any aggressor who kills other people, evicts them from their land and then takes that land depends on their might and the circumstances. But someone should speak out about it.

That is how the West originally came to be. Colonization began in the Middle East and the Arab world, where hundreds of thousands were eliminated and the area was subjected to the Crusader wars. The West dominated this area until Salah-al-Din came about a hundred years later to end the injustice in the region. So this fact must be remembered. It should not die in our souls and in the souls of our children.

However, I excuse anyone who says: I was compelled to kneel. And I admire someone who has not submitted to severe shame, such as Syria, whose stand is still firm even though it is isolated in the world, including the Arab world.

It used to have allies in the east and around the world, but now it is geographically isolated and surrounded, even in the north. Its relationship with Iraq and Turkey is not good either. Therefore, one is actually amazed that Arab have been besieged overtly and covertly and yet have preserved their dignity. Even though Syria has realistically been forced to accept the situation, it is still keeping its dignity. Let others also preserve that principle.

I am confident that the essence of this principle remains in the hearts of the Arabs. I do not believe the Arab world accepts or likes this situation in its heart. The Muslims during their conquests did not act like that. They did not evict people from their land and occupy it, because this is not in their nature and I do not believe they would accept this. This is my stand.

Minister: Hala'ib 'Atrocities' Resemble Bosnia

*EA1707192295 Khartoum SUNA in English
1710 GMT 17 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 17 (SUNA) — Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat has reiterated that the Egyptian regime's authorities are committing atrocities at Hala'ib area which are resembling those being perpetrated by the Serbs against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a press statement to SUNA [SUDAN NEWS AGENCY], the information minister pointed out that the Egyptian forces at Hala'ib continued for the sixth successive day their prevention of Hala'ib citizens from drinking water supplies.

He also underlined that the Egyptian authorities are still detaining three wounded Sudanese soldiers recently abducted when the Egyptian forces attacked the Sudanese soldiers at the Sudanese Hala'ib area. Sabdarat indicated that the Sudanese military attache was prevented to visit the injured soldiers. Sabdarat stated that these acts came in the context of a dirty war launched against Sudan by the Egyptians, adding Sudan will ask the International Red Cross to intervene for safeguarding human rights of the Sudanese citizens at Hala'ib, especially those who were abducted by the Egyptian authorities and considered prisoners of war.

He also refuted the Egyptian authorities' allegation that the brutal attacks against three Sudanese diplomats in Cairo were perpetrated by Egyptian citizens. "If this happened to be true that means Mubarak's regime has confessed to its failure to protect the diplomatic missions in Cairo," Sabdarat said.

The minister described these allegations by the Egyptian regime's authorities as an attempt to cover the atrocities committed by them. We have no doubt that the heinous attacks against the Sudanese diplomats were committed by members of the Egyptian security organs under auspices of the Egyptian leadership, Sabdarat said.

Meanwhile he described acts of the Egyptian regime against Sudanese diplomats and citizens as state's terrorism which has been a major characteristic of Mubarak's repressive authorities.

Sabdarat explained that Sudan will not follow suit of the Egyptian regime. He said that Sudan will bear the cost of treatment of its diplomats and citizens who were victims of the Egyptian repression organs. Sabdarat said that the Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif responsible for the humiliation inflicted on his President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian mass media following the recent assassination attempt on the life of Mubarak in Addis Ababa.

Therefore, Safwat al-Sharif desperately attempted to cover his frustration by directing insults to the Sudanese Armed Forces, the minister said, adding that the Sudanese Armed Forces is not needy for a proficiency certificate from Safwat al-Sharif and his likes.

Sabdarat said that [word indistinct] of the Sudanese Armed Forces to such irresponsible statements will not always through the mass media, but at the combat zones. [sentence as received]

News Conference Held on Diplomat Attack

EA1707181195 Khartoum SUNA in English 1015 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 17 (SUNA) — Sudan ambassador to Egypt Ahmad al-Tayyib al-Kurdufani [as received] held Sunday [16 July] evening a press conference to unveil the Egyptian security forces' atrocious acts against three Sudanese diplomats who were seriously injured and beaten up with a complete damage of their cars.

Sunday's bloody assault against diplomats is a flagrant violation of diplomatic conventions, although the Sudanese Government has given the Egyptian regime allowance several times to avoid such escalation, he said.

The first undersecretary, 'Abd-al-azim al-Amin, was beaten and drawing much blood, he added, alluding to the Sudanese students lately arrested and tortured by the Egyptian security forces who plotted and carried the assault publicly under the noses of the Egyptian policemen and passers-by. [sentence as received] He refuted any similar acts against the Egyptian diplomatic mission in Sudan.

Meanwhile, Khalid Ali al-Sayyid, administrative attache, said his car was sealed off by the Egyptian security men and [who had] beaten him up with cutting and whips. The ambassador asked the Egyptian authority to run fair investigations to prosecute those who are responsible.

Injured Diplomats Ordered To Leave Egypt

EA1707193095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry today directed his excellencey the Sudanese ambassador in Cairo to organize the departure of the diplomats injured in the attacks yesterday [16 July]. They are required to leave Cairo immediately for treatment at the expense of the Sudanese Government in Sudan or any other state.

The ministry confirmed Sudan's rejection of Egyptian President Mubarak's attempts to apologize, express regret and offer to arrange to have the injured treated abroad, inasmuch as the attacks had been planned by Egyptian security, which is under his direct authority and works to his orders.

The ministry has also directed the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo to arrange the departure for Khartoum of the families of the diplomats and workers at the embassy as a matter of urgency in view of the threats against their lives. The ministry and other interested quarters will follow up the condition of the injured day and night, as well as the other relevant aspects of this matter.

Sudanese radio today telephoned His Excellency Mr. Ahmad al-Tayyib al-Kurdufani [as heard], Sudan's ambassador in Cairo, who briefed it on the dimensions of the attacks on the three diplomats of the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo. He said the diplomats had been subjected to such deliberate provocations since 4 July. The Egyptian Foreign Ministry was first informed on that date. His excellency added that he had today discussed the matter with senior officials of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. He had received a pledge that such incidents would not take place again. The ambassador assured the Sudanese masses that the Sudanese Embassy in Cairo would continue carrying out its duties as usual, while taking precautions against all eventualities.

General Says Egypt 'Stepped Up' Border Troops

AB1707113395 Paris AFP in English
1106 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khartoum, July 17 (AFP) — Egypt has stepped up its troops in border regions with Sudan, erecting a patrol tower and sending armed boats to patrol the Nile, a Sudanese Army spokesman said Monday [17 July].

General Muhammad al-Bashir Suleyman told the daily AL-RAI AL-AKHER that Egyptian Forces have "reinforced their presence" at Wadi Halfa, a Sudanese port on the Nile River.

"Egyptian gunboats armed with machineguns have begun advancing on the Nile," he said. They had also set up a four metres (12-feet) high control tower, he added.

The military maneuvers were aimed "at provoking the Sudanese authorities and extending the Egyptian presence in Sudanese territory," he said.

It was unclear if Egyptian Forces were already in Sudan in the Argin border region north of Wadi Halfa.

On Saturday, the Sudanese news service SUNA accused Egyptian authorities of "harrassing Sudanese residents of Argin and trying to force them to move south."

Meanwhile, Egyptian Forces further east in the disputed border region of Hala'ib on the Red Sea "have become a provocative and hostile colonization," Suleyman said.

He accused Egyptian Forces of barring a military commander from visiting the region to "solve the problem of drinking water." Khartoum says the Egyptian Army has cut off water to Sudanese in the desert region.

Sudanese troops in Hala'ib have also "refused to leave their trenches," he added.

The desert Hala'ib area is claimed by both countries although Egypt controls the region administratively and militarily. Sudan, which maintains a token military presence there, accused Cairo of seeking to annex it.

Clashes broke out between the two sides in Hala'ib after Egyptian President Husni Mubarak accused the Islamic regime in Khartoum of backing the June 26 attempt to kill him in Adis Ababa

Meanwhile, Egypt Monday demanded "urgent" explanations and compensation for its diplomats it alleged had been attacked on Saturday in Khartoum.

The Egyptian ambassador to Khartoum Hasan Jad al-Haq, sent a message to Sudanese under secretary of foreign affairs Awad al-Karim Fadlallah, the Egyptian daily AL-AHRAM said.

AL-AHRAM said six diplomats had been assaulted including administrative attache Ahmed Riad who was seriously wounded after being "beaten, whipped, his clothes left in shreds and bleeding from the back."

Another government daily AL-AHRAM AL-MISAI said Sunday four diplomats had been injured in attacks by "Sudanese security agents."

But in counter charges Sudanese Embassy officials in Cairo charged that Egyptian security agents had attacked three of their diplomats in the capital.

U.S.-Egyptian-UK Moves Said 'Threat' to Region

EA1707221895 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic
1730 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 17 July (SUNA) — Major General Muhammad Abdullah Uwaydah, chairman of the security and defense committee of the Transitional National Assembly [TNA], has said that the current joint American-Egyptian-British maneuvers in the Red Sea constitute a real threat to the sovereignty, unity, and stability of the Red Sea littoral states. Maj. Gen. Muhammad Uwaydah said this while receiving in Khartoum today a delegation of women students from the Holy Koran University, who had led a march to the TNA to condemn the Egyptian regime's provocations against Sudan. He said: The Hala'ib region is Sudanese on the basis of international conventions and agreements.

Uwaydah said Sudan would not fire a shot against any Arab or Muslim [words indistinct] the desperate attempts to drag it to fight. His excellency praised the Sudanese student movement and its efforts in support of the country's advancement, protection and defense.

Addressing the march, his excellency said Sudan had nothing to do with the remnants of the so-called opposition gathered in Egypt and Eritrea. He described them as agents or mercenaries. He said the Sudanese people had defined their goals and were strong in a united front. They would not surrender a single inch of their beloved country.

Article Examines Iraq-Iran-Sudan 'Axis'

JN1707143495 Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Jul 95 pp 28-31

[Article by Chief Editor Walid Abu-Zahr: "An Iraqi-Iranian-Sudanese Axis To Take Revenge on Egypt"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI has obtained information from some capitals on secret contacts between Baghdad and Khartoum, affirming that the visit to Sudan by Iraqi Social Affairs Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim produced an agreement to implement a complete and comprehensive plan for cooperation between Iraq and Sudan which would have serious repercussions on the situation in the Horn of Africa and the Middle East. The details of the plan, to which western sources have access, are very interesting.

Some reports reveal signs of alliance between Iraq and Sudan on the military, security, and economic levels. The reports say that an agreement has been reached to dispatch Iraqi officers from the Air Force, whose qualifications were enhanced during the Iraq-Iran war, as well as military experts specialized in missiles, artillery, and ground battles. One of the reports said that the first group has been expeditiously dispatched to Sudan to face the developments which would take place in the escalating situation between Sudan and Egypt. Observers believe that the Iraqi statement, which was supportive of Khartoum and hostile to Cairo, is a sign of Iraqi readiness to support the Sudanese regime in what the Iraqis term "a cover for foreign interference in Sudan." [passage omitted]

Moreover, Western sources say that Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi's serious threat to retaliate against Egypt by using the Nile waters as a bargaining chip was not a statement for public consumption but is within a plan of cooperation with Iraq, indicating the serious agreement between the two countries. In this regard, the sources reveal that Baghdad proposed to Khartoum to stop the Nile waters from reaching Egypt. For this purpose, Iraqi agriculture and irrigation experts prepared proposals to Khartoum such as reclaiming large areas in Sudan for agriculture and presenting this as a pretext for reconsidering Egypt's share of the Nile waters which now is estimated at 55 billion cubic meters. Another more serious proposal is building a Sudanese dam which will control the Nile waters pouring into Egypt.

Informed sources told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that a group of Iraqi irrigation and engineering experts arrived in Khartoum last week, including three senior engineers who participated in building the famous al-Tharthar dam near Tikrit and that they have started studies to implement Sudanese projects to divert the Nile waters and exploit them inside Sudan, that is, preventing them from reaching Egypt. It is said that these developments have prompted Sudan to occupy the resthouse belonging to the Egyptian irrigation mission in order to hand it over to an Iraqi mission.

Western Sources believe that the Sudanese-Iraqi cooperation has gone a long way in effecting a military alliance between the two countries. These sources fear that this is the beginning of a serious alliance among Iraq, Sudan, and Iran—an alliance whose elements have now been crystallized and for the realization of which immense efforts were made to confront the Middle East peace process and resist the U.S. policy to isolate and besiege the three regimes. Recent developments seem to have forced the three states to drop their reservations over this project whose repercussions they had so far been fearing. [passage omitted]

The Iranians have recently faced serious developments, prompting them to offer concessions to resolve pending problems with Iraq since the eight-year war. They have realized that current threats to the Islamic revolution creates a very serious situation for the future of all mullahs. In addition to the fears from the outcome of the "dual containment" policy and the U.S. danger, the main concern that "has robbed the mullahs' sleep" is the possible collapse of the strategic alliance with Syria in view of its participation in the peace process and the progress of the Washington talks. Vis-a-vis this danger, the Iranians find themselves compelled either to yield and silently join the peace process, which means a fatal blow to their "revolutionary Islamic" scheme, or to enter into another strategic alliance to compensate for their loss of Damascus. Such an alliance is possible only with Iraq or Sudan.

In Sudan, Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi feels that the Americans are treating him like another Saddam Husayn, imposing a siege on him and isolating him. This has been evident in his sharp differences with almost all his neighbors, including Egypt, Eretrea, Ethiopia, and even Uganda and Kenya. In light of this menacing atmosphere, Hasan al-Turabi found that his maneuvers and double-talk with the United States, the West, and his neighbors will not lead to breaking his isolation and siege.

Quarters knowledgeable about regional developments say that this "tripartite alliance" has so far been deeply entrenched between Khartoum and Baghdad and that Hasan al-Turabi has started a mediation between Iraq and Iran to expedite reconciliation and normalization between the two countries. Those quarters stress that the Sudanese shaykh has successfully persuaded the

Iranians to facilitate the arrival of Iraqi officers and military experts to Sudan via Iran. At the same time, al-Turabi is exerting efforts with Tehran to persuade it to release some of the 140 Iraqi aircraft that fled to Iran during the invasion of Kuwait and to send them to Sudan to reinforce the Sudanese front which may witness another "mother of battles," this time against Egypt.

The sources add that Latif Nusayyif Jasim's visit to Khartoum was very successful and that the Sudanese-Iranian contacts were positive. Therefore, it has been noticed that the Sudanese regime has shown unusual boldness, going too far in defying and provoking Egypt and launching threats against it and other neighbors. Observers have been surprised to see the Sudanese officials systematically resorting to escalation and threats and behaving as if they were after war. For the first time, al-Turabi threatened to use the Nile card, although he knows that the mere threat to Egypt's "water security" is a call for war. This was followed by a statement by Interior Minister al-Tayyib Muhammad Khayr, who said: "We will cut into pieces whoever is deluded into attacking Sudan." Meanwhile, the Sudanese information minister reiterated the "military option." The "procession of rage" organized by the regime in the streets of Khartoum was asked to raise expressive slogans, such as "The road to Hala'ib is the road of jihad." [passage omitted]

Some reports confirm that Sudan recently acquired large quantities of weapons and heavy military equipment from Iran and Iraq. In light of these recent developments, the situation has been brought under observation with extreme caution because the escalation taking place against the backdrop of the Iranian-Iraqi- Sudanese strategic alliance will not drag Sudan only to a dangerous situation, but will also place the entire Arab region before the biggest challenge since the war for the liberation of Kuwait. These dangers may be exacerbated by the fact that Iraq and Iran are this time wagering on a change in the international equations leading to the participation of Russia and China in this alliance under the slogan of hostility to the U.S. hegemony.

In view of this situation, observers pose the question: Will the Gulf war be repeated in the Red Sea?

Radio Views Mubarak's 'Pharaonic Regime'

EA1707195095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 95

[From "The Political Talk" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Heroic Sudanese people: Egypt is enduring a real tragedy. It has been overcome by the political misery of [word indistinct] due to the arrival of the Circassians and Europeans who have invaded it. These people then ran the government. They were far away from the Egyptian conscience, which is Muslim, patriotic, and freedom loving. The existing pharaonic system is no more than an evil fruit of those evil little trees in the garden of the Arab nation. [passage omitted]

When a believing group of the sons of Egypt arose to uphold what is right and to forbid the doing of evil, the pharaonic regime mounts against them continuous military campaigns by thousands of soldiers and machines of war in the villages, farms, towns and districts of upper Egypt. They kill on mere suspicion. The regime wants to silence the call of Islam and describe it as terrorism, as it has been taught. The pharaonic regime has lost Egypt all its roles: in faith, politics and culture. [passage omitted]

It has now exceeded the limits by occupying Sudanese territory, killing some people and capturing others in spite of the existing international agreements. It has also reduced the number of flights in spite of international agreements. [passage omitted]

After all this, the pharaoh sought more victims. He found the [Sudanese] diplomatic mission on which to vent his crazy anger. He sent out his security gangs and the murderers of his regime, who deal high-handedly with the oppressed Egyptian people. They perpetrated the worst incident on record in the books of diplomatic norms and thus deducted from what is left for Egypt of etiquette, wisdom, and sagacity, as the pharaoh rubbed all this in the dirt, proclaiming his ignorance from the tops of pulpits. He has become the laughing stock of newspapers and correspondents. [passage omitted]

Cairo Airport Turns Back 26 Sudanese Nationals

EA1707204895 Khartoum SUNA in English 1718 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, July 17 (SUNA) — Egyptian authorities have sent back 26 Sudanese citizens from Cairo Airport in spite of their possession of valid entry visas.

On the other hand, another 32 Sudanese nationals were detained by the Egyptian authorities at Cairo Airport for 15 hours as they arrived [at] the airport Sunday [16 July] evening and allowed entry on Monday noon, a news report received SUNA from Cairo indicated, adding that the Egyptians detained the citizens in spite of their entry visa issued by the Egyptian consulate in Khartoum.

Western Sahara

Polisario To Resume Participation in Voters Committee

LD1307180695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] has decided to continue its participation in the proceedings of the voters identification committee, provided that the United Nations is impartial in dealing with the two sides in the war, Morocco and the Polisario.

A statement by the Saharan Information Ministry said today that the Polisario also made it a condition that the UN settlement initiative be characterized by credibility.

The front based its decision on recent developments, including the Security Council's efforts to prompt Morocco to review its arbitrary decisions immediately.

Polisario Envoy Comments on Decision

LD1707205095 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Baba Sayid, the representative of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] in France, is our guest this evening. After weeks of boycott, the Polisario has finally decided to participate in the process of identifying the voters for the upcoming self-determination referendum in Western Sahara.

It has decided to go back to the commission in charge of the identification of these voters. Baba Sayid is interviewed by Christophe Boisbouvier:

[Begin recording] [Sayid] We suspended our participation for two reasons. First, to protest strongly against the verdict of a very peculiar and unacceptable trial of some Saharan youths whom, with others, demonstrated peacefully in the Moroccan-occupied territories in favor of the independence of Western Sahara. The second reason is a state of affairs that has been worsening since practically the deployment of the MINURSO [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara]. A state of affairs in which the United Nations has already lost all authority even before the phase of the organization of the referendum had begun. We cannot accept this. In practice, they are the auxiliary forces of the Moroccan authorities.

There are hundreds of missing people and prisoners. People are being arrested every day. Nobody says anything to the Moroccan authorities.

[Boisbouvier] Why have you reintegrated the process of identification now?

[Sayid] We have seen the heavy sentences that were commuted to one year in prison. This does not mean that we accept this one-year imprisonment sentence. Second, I think that the members of the UN Security Council have realized that there is no third solution. Either they clearly impose on the Moroccan authorities the determination of the UN Security Council to obtain all the necessary cooperation for the organization of the referendum, or the UN withdraws and leaves the parties to the conflict to their devices.

[Boisbouvier] According to your position and the position of the Moroccans, the latter claim that the number of voters is three times higher than what you say. Is there ground for a compromise?

[Sayid] I think that the number of voters should be determined in their majority on the basis of the census carried out by the Spanish authorities in 1974.

[Boisbouvier] That is about 75,000 voters.

[Sayid] That is 75,000 voters. If we do not find a solution to this problem, we cannot continue to work together.

[Boisbouvier] The Polisario will hold its congress next month. Will it carry on its policy of participating in the work of the United Nations and maintain peace, or will it vote for the resumption of war?

[Sayid] I think that one of the aims of the congress is in fact to make the final decision on this situation.

[Boisbouvier] Is the resumption of war possible?

[Sayid] Absolutely!

[Boisbouvier] French President Jacques Chirac will travel to Rabat this Wednesday [19 July] to meet King Hassan II. Do you think that the French president can play a key role in this issue?

[Sayid] Certainly, I think this intention exists. It remains to be seen at what level France might play a neutral role in the conflict. There is a desire to see France as being the friend of all the parties in the Maghreb, instead of being confined to an exclusive friendship with the Moroccan king. This desire exists. Whether it is predominant at the French leadership level, I do not know.

Our wish is to see President Chirac speak in favor of this political solution, the only one possible for the future, during his visit to Morocco. [end recording]

Kuwait

Assembly Denounces Serb Agression in Bosnia

LD1507203195 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The National Assembly held a special session this afternoon under the chairmanship of the assembly's speaker, Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun.

The assembly discussed the dangerous violations and the barbaric war launched by Serb gangs against the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina in full sight and hearing of the United Nations personnel.

At the end of the discussions, the assembly approved a number of recommendations, including sending a cable to the Arab and international parliamentary unions asking them to move and help the besieged Bosnian people, calling on the government to move at the United Nations and work towards lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia to enable its people to defend themselves, and issuing a statement embodying the assembly's views on this issue. [passage omitted]

The session adjourned this afternoon and the assembly will meet again on 18 July.

The National Assembly statement on the ordeal in Bosnia- Herzegovina said:

The National Assembly of the State of Kuwait, which expresses the conscience and feelings of the Kuwaiti people, disturbed by the barbaric and inhuman incidents carried out by the Serb forces in the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, denounces the mass genocide and the ethnic cleansing to which the Muslims, who defend their existence, land, and country, are being exposed. These crimes are punishable by international law and are condemned by international agreements, conventions, and the Declaration of Human Rights.

The Assembly regrets that these events have been received with complete silence by international public opinion and international organizations, while the Serb forces are challenging the international community by invading the UN declared safe haven areas one after the other.

The National Assembly calls on the Security Council to lift the arms embargo on the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina in order to repulse aggression and maintain the security and safety of the citizens who are exposed to the ugliest aggressive war witnessed by contemporary history.

It is painful for these regrettable events to occur while we are on the eve of the 21st century and at a time when the mhe Gulf Cooperation Council countries, and throughout the Arab and Islamic worlds, as well as to the local, regional, and international Red Crescent and Red Cross organizations to rise to save the citizens in Bosnia-Herzegovina. These citizens include oajor powers put respect for human rights at the forefront of their foreign policies.

The National Assembly appeals to the brothers in tld people, women, and children, who can neither find a refuge nor food and clothing because of an aggressive war imposed on them in which they do not have a part and cannot repulse it since support became scarce.

It also appeals to the humanitarian organizations in Kuwait, the charitable associations, and the alms houses to be active in collecting money and material donations for their brothers in the afflicted country. [passage omitted]

The assembly recommends that the government adopt the necessary measures to put forward the recent events in Bosnia to the UN Security Council to urge it to assume its duties towards this dangerous situation which clashes with the UN charter in such a flagrant manner.

Government Condemns Ethnic Cleansing Against Bosnians

LD1607182695 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers this morning held its weekly meeting under the chairmanship His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister. [passage omitted]

The council expressed satisfaction with the agreement reached between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Sultanate of Oman in Riyadh last week regarding the demarcation of the borders between the two countries. The council praised this important achievement that embodies the sincere intentions and will of the two fraternal countries to strengthen the deeply-rooted relations of brotherhood between them and everything that contributes to boosting the good cooperation process between the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] states in the various fields.

The council discussed political issues and became acquainted with a number of reports concerning the major developments in the political arena.

The council followed with great anxiety and indignation the practices of ethnic cleansing and the acts of mass expulsions and extermination to which the innocent people of Bosnia-Herzegovina are subjected. While it condemns these horrible criminal acts against Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Council of Ministers calls on the international community to hurry up and take urgent measures that will lead to the end of these painful human tragedies. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Receives Message From Bosnian Official

LD1507105995 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic
1000 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, today received a message from Haris Siladjzic, prime minister of the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement issued by the heir apparent and prime minister's office did not disclose the contents of this message.

Government Meets With Saudis on Demarcating Border

LD1607111395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
0657 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 16 Jul — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, stressed in a news statement published here today that the State of Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wish to demarcate their common border.

He said in an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-WATAN that there have been contacts for a while over this issue.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad pointed out that Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nazir, who is visiting Kuwait, has brought with him a message from Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in reply to a message he sent him "in connection with mutual understanding between the two fraternal counties, in addition to the demarcation of the border between them."

Ministry Denies Refusal To Receive Sudan's Taha

LD1707170395 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jul (KUNA) — Kuwait today denied press reports that it has refused to receive Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha who is currently touring some countries in the region. Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry under secretary, reaffirmed in a statement to KUNA that no Kuwaiti official has made any statement in this connection. Al-Shahin said: "It is regrettable that such a statement should be attributed to an official source at the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry without ascertaining the source." [passage omitted]

Yeltsin's Special Envoy Meets Foreign Minister

LD1707172095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1531 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 17 Jul (KUNA) — Viktor Posuvalyuk, special envoy of the Russian president to the Middle East and deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation, today met with Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on the occasion of his visit to Kuwait. Mr. Posuvalyuk had earlier arrived in Kuwait from Damascus on an official visit as part of a tour he is making of the countries of the Middle East.

Brings 'Ideas' on Invasion Consequences

LD1707184695 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1430 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 17 Jul (KUNA) — Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian presidential envoy and deputy foreign minister, who arrived in Kuwait today, has said that he is bringing with him ideas from President Boris Yeltsin regarding the consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The envoy told KUNA that he will "put these ideas before the Kuwaiti officials," but he did not disclose any details. [passage omitted]

On whether these ideas could be considered as a Russian initiative insisting on Iraq's implementation of all international resolutions pertaining to its aggression against Kuwait, Posuvalyuk said, referring to the Iraqi invasion: "We are trying to build on the initiatives of our policy toward the Middle East regarding the situation in the Gulf and the settlement of the consequences of the events of 1990 and 1991." He stressed the importance of this policy and said: "It actually forms part of our attempt radically to improve the situation in the region."

Posuvalyuk noted that this visit, which is his third to Kuwait since last March, "comes within the context of the intensified political dialogue between the Russian and Kuwaiti leaderships." He made clear that this dialogue includes many issues of "direct" interest to the two countries .

He talked about intentions to coordinate with Kuwaiti officials on exchange visits to bolster "mutual political ties." [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Discusses Bosnian Muslims

LD1807082895 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 17 Jul — The weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers was held today, Monday 19 Safar 1416 AH [17 July] under the chairmanship of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, at al-Salam palace in Jeddah.

In a statement to the Saudi news agency SPA after the meeting, Dr. Khalid Bin-Muhammad al-Anqari, the minister of higher education and acting information minister, said that at the start of the meeting and under the noble guidance of the custodian of the two holy mosques the council heard a comprehensive report on the most importance current Arab, Islamic, and international political, security, and economic developments.

The acting information minister said: On the basis of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's role and efforts aimed at supporting the issues of Islam and the Muslim peoples, defending them and standing by them at all gatherings, and within the framework of his concerns, the custodian of the two holy mosques talked about the tragedies suffered by the Islamic nation in a number of centers of tension in the world, and the attacks, injustices, and the violation of the most basic human rights suffered by its sons.

In this context, the king pointed out the Serbs' persistent attacks on Muslims in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and their attacks on the safe areas, which are determined by the United Nations.

He expressed his increasing concern over the ordeal of the brother Bosnian refugees who have fled from the savage aggression of the tyrannical Serb forces.

In this context, he gave instructions for the kingdom's support for those unfortunate people, and for the provision of urgent financial and humanitarian aid for them to enable them to confront the tyrannical aggression.

The custodian of the two holy mosques welcomed the meeting of the foreign ministers' council of the Islamic action group [as heard] on Bosnia-Herzegovina, due to be held in brotherly Morocco on Friday 21 July 1995.

He pointed out that he would send messages to the leaders of the UN Security Council member-states urging that the council and the international organization should bear responsibility for confronting the unjust Serb aggression and defend Bosnia-Herzegovina, a member of the United Nations, by offering it backing to exercise self-defense in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

Minister al-Anqari added that King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques, had reaffirmed the government and people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's continued standing by their brothers in the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, and their support for them in every way possible until the safety of the Muslims there is guaranteed, the blood-shedding stopped, and all their legitimate rights protected. [passage omitted]

King Donates 50 Million Riyals to Bosnian Muslims

LD1807081695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0710 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah (SPA) — Within the framework of his interest in and constant follow-up to the cause of the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina and out of his concern for reducing the pains and tragedies of Muslims there, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has issued his orders for the donation of 50,000,000 riyals by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to this stricken people. [passage omitted]

Government Urges Release of Tourists in Kashmir

LD1707225795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2201 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Statement by "an official source" to SPA; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is following with great concern the reports concerning the kidnapping of a number of U.S. and European tourists in Kashmir.

While reaffirming its condemnation of all forms of terrorism and denouncing all acts of kidnapping, whatever their motives, the government of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, hopes for a speedy release of the kidnapped foreign nationals, and believes that their continued detention is in breach of our true Islamic religion and very harmful to the Muslim people of Kashmir and their cause.

It also believes that the settlement of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions would restore security and stability in Kashmir and enable its Muslim people to exercise their legitimate rights.

Foreign Minister Receives Japanese Envoy

LD1607202195 Riyadh SPA in English 1914 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, July 16, SPA — Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister met at his office today with Mr Nobomu Masunaga, the envoy of the Japanese Government and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Mamoun Kurdi [name as received], undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry for economic and cultural affairs, Ibrahim Qabbani [name as received] head of the Asian department and the Japanese Ambassador to the Kingdom Minoru Tamba.

Defense Minister Receives Jordan's al-Kabariti

LD1607080695 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0054 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 16 Jul — His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector-general, received at al-Aziziyah Palace this evening His Excellency 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti, the Jordanian foreign minister, with whom he had a cordial discussion. [passage omitted]

Israel's 'Greedy Appetite for Water' Blasted

LD1407222195 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Report by Husayn al-'Askari]

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkey announced that it had refused to supply Israel with water. This is following a visit by an Israeli delegation to Turkey. Possibly during its visit, the Israeli delegation may have raised this question with Turkish officials. This question has been topical for the last few years.

Zionism's second preoccupation, after the first, namely seizing Palestine, usurping its soil and scattering its people, was to secure water sources for the Jewish state to enable it build agricultural projects and settlements.

The policy of seizing Palestinian land had run and still runs parallel to the seizure of water sources to the extent that the occupation authorities imposed their control on all the sources of water in order to fulfill two objectives. The first to provide water for agricultural projects and the second to turn Arab agricultural land barren by depriving them of water; thus making it easier to seize the land and build more Jewish settlements on it.

However, Israel's ambitions, which know no limit, prompted it to look for water sources in neighboring states. This became and aim to be achieved by war or peace.

However, the peace formula between Israel and some neighbors — a formula that had been worked out recently — perhaps raised Israeli hopes of conferring an aspect of legitimacy on the sources of water it had usurped from its neighbors. This was not the end of Israeli ambitions to control the sources of water in the occupied territories or outside them. This is why Israel did not conceal its greedy appetite for water. It began to look far for water. It began to think about Turkey who has an abundance of rivers, to obtain water from Turkey.

Tel Aviv continued to publicize the possibility of a Turkish agreement. But the Turkish Government put an end to Israeli propaganda when Ankara's announced that it will not supply Israel with water and that this matter is not contemplated by it. Thus the Turks have put a decisive end to the matter.

Opposition Committee Warns Against Privatization

MM1707144395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 15-16 Jul 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Advice Committee, Headed by Bin-Ladin, Warns Against Privatizing Saudi Companies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — A statement issued by the Advice and Reform Committee, headed by Shaykh Usamah Bin-Ladin, has criticized Saudi Government plans to sell public companies to the private sector. And it warned citizens against buying shares in the government-owned airlines company if they are offered for sale, because they will suffer substantial losses.

The statement, numbered 361, a copy of which AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has received, said that public companies are drowning in debts totaling tens of billions of dollars as a result of maladministration and corruption. The statement added that, if privatization takes place in response to World Bank instructions, thousands of employees in these establishments will be subjected to expulsion.

The statement added that the Saudi commercial air fleet does not need any modernization or the purchase of 60 new planes costing $7.5 billion. The statement said that the aim of this deal is to obtain commission, to rescue the U.S. aircraft industry from losses, and to provide jobs for more than 20,000 Americans over the next five years.

Baghdad TV Reports Congressman's News Conference

JN1707200095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1856 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Congressman Mr. Bill Richardson held a news conference at the U.S. Embassy in the Jordanian capital today in which he talked about his latest mission in Iraq. He extended his thanks and expressed his gratitude to President Saddam Husayn for his acceptance to free the two American prisoners. He described this approval as a humanitarian gesture worthy of praise and appreciation.

Mr. Richardson stressed that his mission in Baghdad to release the two American prisoners was fulfilled with the knowledge of U.S. President Clinton and the U.S. State Department. He voiced the hope that President Saddam Husayn's move would help improve strained Iraqi-U.S. relations, although Mr. Richardson, as he stated, supports the policy adopted by the U.S. administration vis-a-vis Iraq.

The two American prisoners appeared at the news conference. They voiced their appreciation for President Saddam Husayn's decision to release them from prison. They noted that they were treated satisfactorily by the Iraqis during their stay in prison and that they were not subjected to any pressures or harmed by the Iraqi authorities.

Release of U.S. Prisoners Shows 'Arab Magnanimity'

JN1807092495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0823 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 18 Jul (INA)—The newspaper BABIL has described President Saddam Husayn's favorable response to the appeal of President Clinton, the U.S. Congress, and the American people for releasing the two U.S. prisoners as an embodiment of Arab magnanimity and the humanitarian approach, which transcends hatred, aggression, and plotting.

In an editorial today, BABIL adds: What Saddam Husayn has done in this regard is neither a political tactic nor a move aimed at winning votes in a presidential election campaign, as happens in capitalist countries, headed by the United States. What Saddam Husayn has done is fresh evidence of magnanimity and tolerance, which is in stark contrast to the others' tendency toward crime and excessive aggressiveness.

The paper notes the plots to which Iraq is being exposed under false and wornout slogans regarding human rights, saying that ethics and political reasoning require others to realize that the humanitarian approach cannot lend itself to differing interpretations that could be tailored to suit interests, human calculations, and political shortsightedness.

BABIL examines the plots that aim to perpetuate the embargo and divide Iraq into weak statelets in accordance with longitudes and latitudes, saying that opposing a revocation of the sanctions and encouraging inspections is not a manifestation of a humane stand, but rather an encroachment on the peoples' rights to independence and national sovereignty.

The paper addresses the issue of safe havens, which were set up under false human rights slogans, saying that the United Nations and the powers that control it must realize that safe havens are only traps for others, as has been proven in the former Yugoslavia.

The paper draws the attention of the godfathers of safe havens to the tragedies and scandals experienced by our Kurdish people in northern Iraq who live in the so-called safe haven of Iraqi Kurdistan under the Hammer Force, Iranian aggressions, and Turkish invasion.

Saddam Chairs 26th Cabinet Session

JN1707193495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency Leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, chaired the 26th session of the Council of Ministers. The cabinet discussed the issues listed on its agenda, including following up the campaign for marketing the agricultural crops which has almost come to an end.

The cabinet also discussed the bases of distributing harvesters, tractors, and agricultural equipment for the forthcoming agricultural season. The cabinet also addressed a number of organizational issues and made the necessary decisions regarding them.

Saddam Addresses Ba'th Party Congress

JN1507084895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn at opening of the Ba'th Party's 11th Congress of the Iraq Command held in Baghdad on 8 and 9 July—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Comrade members of this great congress, greetings and may God's peace and blessings be upon you: Our current congress convenes in beloved Baghdad, the Baghdad which remained impregnable against the destroyers, the rancorous, and all the nests of evil, bases of hatred, and sources of poisoned arrows. Your 11th congress, the Congress of the Crossing, convenes resplendent under its great banner, the banner of God is Great. When your previous congress, the Congress of Jihad and Construction, was held, you loftily raised your heads high, looking confidently toward the future despite the stabs that you had received, some of which touched the morale while most of these stabs had weakened the bodies.

The Iraq Command congress, the 11th congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party convenes approximately four years less two months after the 10th congress, the Congress of Jihad and Construction. At that congress, it was decided to hold the Iraq Command congress every three years instead of five. Our determination and that of the command was that the congress should be held on schedule. However, the relative instability of the political situation within the framework of the relationship between Iraq and the UN Security Council and its Special Commission made us pause before convening the congress to have a complete picture of the situation with all its intricacies and difficulties. We did so because this is a new experience for the march and for those leading it in terms of the consequences, injustice, and cowardly brutality that took place and continues to take place and the accurate actions that should be preceded by more accurate calculations.

For the congress to convene, it was necessary for it to say something decisive on such a matter where the relationship witnessed threats and menaces, the actual use of force in its known main chapter when the groups of evil from 33 countries and 28 armies were mobilized and were confronted by the great people of Iraq and their heroic army, not to mention the successive aggressions in January 1993 and in June of the same year, and the mean methods that preceded, accompanied, and followed these aggressions such as the psychological, media, and intelligence warfare that the aggressors are launching against Iraq. All this is accompanied by the chapter of the treacherous siege on land, at sea and in the air, and the embargo imposed on the loaf of bread and all that the Iraqi individual needs, including the aspirin tablet.

For the congress to adopt a firm decision based on solid ground and comprehensible reasons, the leadership had to develop a specific and agreed-on conviction based on the traditions of our party, and to raise it at the congress, acting as a basic center of consultation. Then, after being dissolved before the congress, the leadership would act as a vital part of it, so that the congress would elect whoever it deems trustworthy and capable of carrying out the tasks of leadership. Thus, the convocation of the congress at this time in particular became an urgent necessity, not only because the 10th congress had decided so, but also because conducting business according to better criteria at the level of the party and the leadership and mobilizing the masses have proved that the convocation of this congress had become an urgent necessity. Hence the timing. At this point, we suggest, in my name and on behalf of the leadership that the same congress convene during one year after this session to discuss a political plan and a complementary and comprehensive political course for the [next] stage, in addition to other topics. This is in order to remember that the leadership has not let time slip by and produce what has not been discussed in depth, especially as far as national issues and a significant part of pan-Arab and international issues are concerned, be it on the highest level at the Iraq Command or the National Command. Thus, the current congress will be able to address the urgent tasks of the current stage, including the election of a new leadership, as well as the tasks of the entire stage, including the documents that have not yet been submitted to it, at another session within one year as of today, 8 July 1995.

Comrades, when the Congress of Jihad and Consatruction was convened in 1991, all the main wounds were open, some deeply. Then, the evil ones imposed on us an wicked siege executed by the regimes surrounding Iraq. The language that prevailed at the UN Security Council then was menacing, accompanied by possible extremely harmful action. At that time, there was not even a sign in the international and Arab scenes against the evil ones. Still, some confidence about the future was restored by some of the state's measures to repair the water, electricity, gasoline, and oil derivatives establishments in general. Besides, that was accompanied by a comprehensive repair campaign of all destroyed targets.

The party's leadership role stems from its many attributes, the most important being its efficiency to assume such a role in leading the people. In spite of all these circumstances, the decision was made to call your congress the Congress of Jihad and Construction. This choice denoted that what was in the hearts was enough to carry out the crossing from one state to the other and from the shore of a special situation to the shore of responsible leadership. The frame of mind for this crossing dictated the preparation of the crossing requirements the party and society should have and have the society cross to safe shores under the party's leadership.

If such a description becomes possible and appears to be easy when we put it down on paper, it needs, to be seen by all the people, the adoption of thousands of measures, decisions, and laws on the level of the state and the party and on the level of all that has to do with the fields of action of the state and the party in terms of mobilization, jihad, and construction.

When the first aggression took place during which fighting lasted for more than 20 days between our ground defense forces and interceptor planes in accordance with the air defense plan and the missiles and aircraft of the aggression, the cohesion of the national stand became evident. The leadership announcement gave President Clinton the opportunity of meditation about the relationship in his capacity as the new president after President Bush. However, when President Clinton came after a while to launch the second aggression against the Intelligence Headquarters in beloved Baghdad the Iraqis did not shake.

Between the 10th and 11th Congresses, there was special emphasis on the efficiency of the party's organs in monitoring foreign agents in Iraq. There was such emphasis in areas which needed to be defended against the attacks of these agents who were manipulated by the foreigner.

The comrades devoted their attention to the people so that they may always carry out their role of steadfastness on all levels in accordance with the national and pan-Arab objectives and so that they may carry out their effective role of protecting the party, the state organs, and society from the acts of treachery and sabotage that are carried out by agents who are on the foreigner's payroll.

With respect to popular action and in implementation of the Ba'thist ideology, many factors might become intertwined, some practical and others ideological, to form what gives a push forward to many. There is no harm in this. This or that factor might get more attention and predominate in this or that measure. However, the harm is when secondary, or a transient state turns into a main and basic state that prevents any step or measure from remaining within its proper perspective.

The level of Ba'thists' combat ability has risen compared to what it was before or at the beginning of the battle against the aggression of the armies of over 30 states or during the chapter of treason and treachery. The current level of combat ability compared to what it was two or three years ago is something to be proud of.

Comrades, generally speaking, the party's preparedness to absorb shocks has increased. Technically, the party's ability to confront the enemies has increased. However, there is still a distance between the party's current level and what is required from it. This distance should be shortened and removed as soon as possible. The faith in the historic role of this generation as a leader of the nation and as an example of self-denial, decency, sacrifice, and patience is less than the technical preparedness and enthusiastic speeches.

Everyone of you, comrades, know that for the Ba'thist to become a distinguished fighter it is important not to be technically distinguished in the profession of combat only, but also to be distinguished basically in faith, and to turn into a soldier, a revolutionary, or a mujahid and struggler for the sake of his faith. Afterward, to be a true soldier or an effective mujahid and struggler against the enemy, and to be able to defend himself and maintain his ability to fight the enemy, inflict losses on it to force it retreat before the faithful gathering, a Ba'thist must learn the required aret of combat and the use of weapons and equipment so that he would be able to accompany words with deeds.

The level of self-denial and altruism has not been up to the level of combat preparedness, and our nation's great heritage and tolerant religion have not been used as a source of inspiration for augmenting the pillars of the Ba'thist faith with its great depth as they should be to entrench the Ba'thist's role and make him more effective within his environment. The comrades should be more certain and enthusiastic about attaining the desired level of immunity and intellectual and psychological preparedness to play their historic role as defined by their religion more than just to attain self-satisfaction and enjoy psychological stability and optimism to help them endure external pressures.

Although this is useful in itself, you are aware of the difference between the two, based on your understanding of the requirements of spiritual faith and worship accompanied by jihad. When worship became simply something inherited from one's family, jihad disappeared, and so did the Arab empire of faith and its values. Had the Arab empire believed and worked in accordance with sound bases, it would have maintained the positions to which God lifted it. That took place in an era you know well in the life of the Arab empire in Baghdad. Therefore, it collapsed under the hooves of the Moguls and came under the domination of tyrants. When that empire lost its faithful, insightful, wise, brave, and firm leadership, it came under the Ottomans in the name of all Muslims, but the Ottomans were not as good faithful leaders as the Arabs, who were chosen for leadership by God for they constituted the earliest nucleus of Muslims and for their known leadership capacity.

We have always believed that work draws its meanings and its compelling historical framework from the deep faith on which it should be based. From this premise, the command and its secretary devoted their attention to these meanings while the officials in charge of work pay attention to the minutest details of the people's affairs, and secure what makes them capable of steadfastness and patience. The idea of teaching the holy Koran first to the advanced cadre was among the most important measures of the stage of faith. The party will work to enhance faith, and to place it within the framework of a sound balance in the face of all that distorts values, and shakes the immortal heritage and high values part of which has been taken from the culture and civilization of advanced countries. This is one of the most important approaches the Ba'th Party has adopted to face its enemies, the charlatans. The command has also embodied the immortal heritage of our party and has soundly and faithfully applied it.

The beginning was with just the advanced cadre; a sound beginning for the attainment of its objectives and that will safeguard the respect for the advanced cadre in its leading work with the party members or in its leading of the masses.

Regarding the Armed forces, the efforts which were made were in harmony with the continuous threats of aggression, and the two real aggressions that were launched by superpowers and major countries, and with the attempt to launch a third aggression on the contact lines with the agents in the north of the homeland between 4 March 1995 and 3 May 1995. All this was supported by what is left of the evil Western and regional alliance in the oceans, Turkey, and mean Arab countries.

Everybody, starting from the officials of the political leadership, officers, and all fighters with subordinate ranks and positions in the Armed Forces is doing his best to upgrade the Armed Forces' capabilities in terms of repair work, the provision of spare parts for transport vehicles, and even developing and carrying out improvements on missile and air defense equipment, and fighter aircraft to have them perform their role in the midst of the continued threats, not to mention the training of platoons and columns, and even tank commanders in the Armed Forces. All sectors, including the Armed Forces General Command, have paid attention to this.

If the results and achievements realized in this respect can be counted, and they cannot be counted, they would have satisfied all the faithful sons of our people and nation when measured against the background of the state they were in and the limited resources that are available. This development materialized with its tangible results, both on the level of training fighters on the technical and intellectual level, and on the level of preparing them to carry out real missions. We still aspire for the better at all levels.

In this domain, as the case in other domains in life and in the state and party departments, it was and still is within everybody's ability to put up a better performance given that for a long time, especially after the glorious 17-30 July revolution, this type of men have long been used to receiving ready- made things to be placed at their disposal. Indeed, what was offered to them in certain years was more than their actual needs.

After overcoming the aforementioned difficult circumstances, the party restored its position as the first leader among the people's social and political organizations and, apart from the Armed Forces, as the basic force and great backer of the Armed Forces, in leading the people and social organizations to face sabotage acts, prearranged and supported by hostile forces and armed with local reckless, evil, and treasonous tools. Aligned behind the party and along its side were every noble and patriotic group and every zealous individual from the people such as the tribal chiefs and all organized social, political, and trade unionist elements.

However, as it leads the people, the party has its share of acts that should be criticized, especially those committed by certain party members and supporters who should accept criticism. A small number of those affiliated to the party have joined hands with those from the people who deviated and made mistakes under the pretext and cover of the difficult circumstances of the unjust embargo. Responsible leaders are required—relying on their own ideals and through self-criticism, tackling the shortcomings of certain party members and others from the people—to deal with such cases through punishment in accordance with the party's bylaws or the law in general. Local leaderships whose meetings are devoid of frankness and criticism must be regarded as failures either because they do not possess the specifications of the leaders or because they actually participated, psychologically in practice, in the deplorable activities. If such deviations occur, God forbid, then they can be described as filthy leaderships.

I do not believe that any genuine Ba'thist struggler accepts that his line in the party ends in such result and description. Who wants to win the description of the genuine Ba'thist in terms of leaders and bases must practice his right and perform his duty in cricticising, rectifying, and righting wrongs. The leadership that says it makes no mistakes and cannot be criticized must be taken as an object of firm criticism by lower and higher levels because such claim is both wrong and unrealistic.

In economy and social life, we have faced the difficulties usually faced by a country under siege, as you must be well aware. Economy has become a significant and important factor in life. The functions of the leadership on the level of the state and party have thus ranged from discussing tomato prices to providing onions to consumers, building the Armed Forces, following up on the issues pertaining to the embargo, and international politics at the Security Council and the United Nations' bodies and organizations. All issues have become interconnected. All issues sometimes affected each and every component of the economic and social life and the psychological state of affairs as well. In full keeping with well-known traditions, which are acknowledged by world states, we deem national security important. At this point, our national security is connected with the difficulties of our social, psychological, and cultural life, regardless of how small and minor they may be.

We used the state's military industries sector as a firefighting brigade to address urgent bottlenecks and problems in order to bring things back on track when there was a reduced performance or deficiency in the aftermath of the immortal Mother of Battles. This continued until the state agencies were reactivated in a manner that allowed state sectors to play their roles in full. Thus, things were brought back on track. We have mobilized the party's potentials and used them in a revolutionary manner in certain areas. Likewise, we have used these potentials to enforce the emergency regulations dictated by necessity after the party underwent a measure of revitalization and rehabilitated its leading role in the community. We did so because the party is broader than all other state agencies. When compared to other state agencies, the party in terms of conscience, intellect, and course of action, is the most truthful, honest, and resolute of all. This holds true under both normal and abnormal circumstances. According to some short-sighted people, whose intellect is flawed, the state's agencies, due to their old legacy of red tape, which undermined their performance, need instruments that are unavailable. Furthermore, they argued that the party does not need these instruments all the time. Well, if it were to need some of these instruments to accomplish certain tasks, the party would be content with the least of them to accomplish these tasks. In general, we did not seek to stretch the scope of the party's tasks over long periods of time, in which the party is used to accomplish tasks that are not part of its traditional work. We have maintained that the party would perform such tasks only under the current extraordinary circumstances. Once the rationale for the emergency regulations are removed, or the purposes of these regulations are achieved, the party can be freed and allowed to pursue its basic tasks. Nonetheless, the urgent tasks the party has accomplished due to the compelling circumstances have boosted the people's confidence in the party as a leader of the community to which there is no alternative at present, when they are experiencing a monstrous ordeal, or in the future, God willing. This has also boosted the people's self-confidence, as well as their realistic assessment of urgent and extraordinary circumstances.

The people still recall with a great deal of appreciation the roles played by Ba'thist strugglers in protecting their property from the reckless activities of tamperers, as manifested in the people's guardians experience. The residents of southern Iraq recall with a great deal of appreciation the sacrifices made and positions taken by Ba'thist organizations in all districts and subdistricts of al-Basrah, al-'Amarah, and al-Nasiriyah, not to mention the efforts made by strugglers and laymen in the Wasit Governorate to confront the infiltrators who infiltrate into Iraqi territory across the eastern borders with Iran, the enemies of the people and the homeland, the sinful, aggressive, and treasonous vagabonds.

ated Text] The leading role of the comrade members of the command, who are in charge of this sector, and the secretaries of the branches, sections, and groups, and even all members, supporters, and the people's masses can be an example for all the country's governorates. Greetings to all of them in my name and in the name of this congress. We urge them to further their wisdom, firmness, and faith in order to boost their great example.

In certain circumstances, we failed to appropriately revive the feeling of deep responsibility, capabilities, and the required accuracy, in addition to the enthusiasm of the faithful in a number of individuals who were selected for specific posts in the state and the party, although some were given additional chances hoping for reform. Some may criticize such approach, but as you know, when we discover that the defect is part of a personality that is unable to adjust or change its situation in a manner that suits its responsibilities and position, or when this personality is having a vice that we did not discover in the past, we took the appropriate measure without hesitation in order to correct things. However, our dealing in the command and on the level of secretary — the head of state, has adjusted in a humanitarian manner with the depth of the experience, age, and the traditions which we are eager to entrench in dealing with others at a time when priority is for the interest of the people, nation, and homeland. We saved face and assisted the one who was sacked from his post when his discovered or rejected traits, his behaviors, or his flaws necessitated this without depriving him of care. We saved face and assist him so that his injuries and embarrassment became less in order to preserve relations and moral positions that we are eager to preserve so that our march will have distinguished landmarks, and in order to keep men as close reserves who are necessary for the present and the future.

During the 10th regional congress—the congress of the immortal Mother of Battles, we said that the series of legal and administrative measures adopted by the revolution over more than 20 years in order to realize the interests of the majority have harmed a number of those upon whom the law was applied, whether in the form of toughness toward stealing or public security violations, or in implementation of agricultural reform in order to give a huge number of farmers the chance of having a contract to farm a land—a chance they did not have in the past. These measures also included watching trade and traders and other measures, decisions, or laws. Some of those who were harmed may not judge our measures in an objective and fair manner. This means that they are influenced by the background of these measures and harbor hatred toward the party and the revolution's march. We take into consideration that the party had been new to these measures, and that it was the party of the youths in the first place, and many of its leading members and other members and supporters entered the state establishments for the first time after the revolution whether as a result of their age or the lack of opportunities.

I say that those who were subjected to all these measures do not always remember that they are a vital part of a society that is wider than them and a part of the supreme interest of the homeland and the people. They and others are required to see with clear eyes and with minds and consciences that are in harmony with their national duties even if their own interests are partially or wholly harmed within a certain context or at certain circumstances. Partial harm is remedied by the healthy condition of the homeland and the harmonious united people in their general and progressing line. The major loss lies in the loss of the homeland and by the people becoming in a state that does not realize safety, reassurance, and optimism for any of its members. This makes the happiness of any individual either impossible or shaky and without firm foundations.

We said something like this in the 10th regional congress and we now repeat it in more general and perhaps clearer terms. Our intention in the leadership has been to reduce measures that could reduce wounds and bruises and we are still determined to do this whenever possible. However, this will be extremely easy if it is put to paper on the low and high levels or when it is bandied about by spectators who are far from responsibility in its place and time. The promise becomes absolute and a commitment is made that this will not recur especially at a time when Iraq is facing all these difficult circumstances—making it look like an impossible thing. Thus we will be able to help our comrades and through them the citizens against themselves and against others.

Because there are no Iraqis who do not buy or sell—the majority sells and all of them buy—those who want to buy something that is not permitted find it a burden and perhaps become restless unless they are on a sufficient level of awareness, patriotism, and clarity of vision. The peasant sells his crops and wants to obtain the highest price possible. The storekeeper sells what he has and wants to buy at the least price and then resell it at the highest price. Everybody buys and want to obtain things at the lowest price possible. However, when the leadership assumes its responsibility, it does not forget this and does not forget that the imbalance that disturbs the national security and the security of the big ship on the entire Iraqi area begins from a psychological imbalance formed by trifles some of which is trivial. Moreover, there could be imbalance on the practical level engendered by practical issues some of which may not have great effect at normal circumstances.

Therefore, and in accordance with this situation, consideration, and vision, the balance in this ship must be maintained so that the supreme interest of all will be realized. All of the people of Iraq and irrespective of the opinion of this person or that on any of the details, have a firm practical and patriotic interest, some of which is connected with their security and family honor and even with the continuation of their interests and the security of what they possess to promote the crossing and not delay it, hesitate to carry it out, or fail to realize it, if things are viewed in a comprehensive, meditative, fair, and objective manner.

But, do all people under all circumstances and conditions have such an attitude and behave accordingly?

Our practical answer is that interconnected life concerns, which are burdened by the difficulties of these hard times and by the desire and propensity to obtain everything in return for the most minimal sacrifices, is something to be found in many people, particularly the narrow-minded and selfish. Such a premise is immensely felt under our current circumstances. The captain of the ship threatens to open fire, and actually opens fire on whomever disturbs the security of the ship's passengers in high seas, particularly when the sea is suffering a sea storm. Likewise, shouldering the responsibilities of leading people, achieving their higher interests, and getting them to safe shores regrettably sometimes requires the leadership to take a similar position. We beseech God to spare us the need to act under emergency circumstances. Whoever contributes to the creation of an emergency situation will be sinful and earn the punishment he deserves from God and the people.

Let me give you another example: The people cannot survive without bread. Some people may live on bread substitutes for a short period of time. Nonetheless, a whole people cannot live for a short period of time without bread or bread substitutes. It follows from this that they cannot survive without bread for a relatively long period of time even if all possible substitutes or parts of them are made available. Hence, rendering a success the wheat and barley marketing campaign in this or that season, or the marketing campaign of their substitutes, as decided by the leadership, must be viewed from this perspective. Any different outlook that does not view this issue as an extremely important national and pan-Arab security matter under these circumstances or any other circumstances, for that matter, reflects a profoundly flawed and backward way of looking at things, if we are to use a euphemism.

When the marketing campaign begins, farmers and peasants look forward to the highest possible prices and forget about how they obtained agricultural machines under the embargo, and how they obtained fertilizers, pesticides, water, and other requirements. They forget that any price hikes outside national parameters would, one way or another, undermine the incomes of all Iraqis, disturb the Iraqi economy, and strain the state's potentials, which, if strained beyond the point of tolerance, would render them incapable of producing, marketing, and selling their produce. As a matter of fact, if such a state of affairs is reached, Iraqi farmers and peasants will not even rest assured that they will have flour sacks at their houses unless they use firearms to ensure the availability of such sacks. The end result is that they will either kill or be killed. Thus, farmers and peasants forget that they will need the state at present and in the future, and that they will need the sympathy of the people so that their produce may be subsidized once the embargo is lifted. Such sympathy is inconceivable if there is a selfish conduct and if farmers exploit the current circumstances.

The subsidies for grains, wheat and barley, this year totaled 135 billion dinar. As for subsidies for the other food supplies included in the ration card, they totaled 72.798 billion dinar. These figures are altogether greater than current expenditure, including the salaries of all state employees and Armored Forces personnel. These figures are also very much greater than the spending on investment projects.

Given this crucial importance of grain marketing for national security, and for the ability to make the successful crossing to safe shores, is it not correct to use all possible potentialities, including the party's potentialities, which are the most significant and broadest of all, to render the marketing campaign a success? Now that we have been engaged in campaigns of enlightenment, guidance, and national mobilization, can we afford to be lenient toward those who tamper with marketing campaigns?

The performance by the party and state organs of their tasks will leave some bruises on the faces of some. Many people could choose to forget the background of the circumstances we have mentioned, and gaze at their mirrors to look at their bruises without holding themselves responsible for these bruises. They might hold the party, state, or leadership responsible for these bruises.

Your duty, comrades, is to explain to your people all of this and other things, making the level of their interactions with life's problems on a par with their zeal and their immortal sacrifices, which are not only a witness and a source of pride for us in all forums but a beacon for humanity and a source of inspiration for all the noble mujahidin in the Arab homeland and the Islamic world and on the level of humanity everywhere. This will prevent any shortsighted person from tarnishing his history and the history and interests of his people by reckless behavior or greed which blinds his eyes to the results.

We have given these examples to help explain to you how to deal with the problems and involve people in them without hampering their movement which we want to advance without reducing their morale and zeal which we want to be high, full of confidence and optimism. God is great.

Comrades, many who have been affected by the revolution measures which were either indispensable or which occurred by mistake or because of lack of experience, causing them wounds, burns, fractures, and bruises, may not forget this. They may assail the march and its leadership, blinding their sound vision. Our duty requires us not to abandon them even if they abandon their own souls. The most important remedy is that they must realize their mistakes, that such mistakes must be met with measures that are part of the people's right to protect the people against them, either by party or state measures. Telling them the truth is the deepest level and means of solidarity with them. It is more dangerous for the homeland and the people to have a hypocrite who does not tell them the truth or right their wrongs.

Showing displeasure with the behavior of the wrongdoer and reminding him as clearly as possible is necessary. We must mobilize the majority very clearly so that the wrongdoers realize that they are a minority in the face of the convinced and faithful majority. The fulfillment of duty in this regard is a trust toward the homeland and the people, as well as toward the party and its principles.

Many of those who benefited from the party and who were protected by the revolution and its affiliates and by the party and its affiliates through measures — which others believed were a cause of harm to them — have forgotten these benefits. They have also forgotten that they then were in dire need of these measures. Some of them have even forgotten that their own lives were threatened and that they were saved. Hence, we are dutybound to remind those of the benefits so that they will not forget and to remind the deviants also so that they will not forget.

Comrades, throughout the march of the past three and some years, we saw bad examples of people who weakened and could not stand up in the face of temptations and difficult circumstances. Also, we saw splendid examples of steadfastness in the face of all the temptations of the new life and its difficult circumstances.

News of people who had been patient toward all the great difficulties created by the emergency situation has always been and is still a source of pride for our great people and our mujahid and patient party.

Amid the pain I feel when confronting such painful examples, and with every encroachment by others on the conscience and trust, with every one killed, whenever security or trust is shaken or trampled underfoot, and with every cry of a woman or child frightened by those who search in darkness or in the open for a victim, I began to wonder: Is courage enough to maintain the ability to influence on the road of struggle without having the same level of trust? In fact, is courage enough to safeguard the conditions of struggle and jihad so that they will not become weak or relapse? I have firmly and resolutely answered this by saying that any of the requirements of struggle, particularly under difficult and extremely complicated circumstances, constitute part of the basic characteristics which are necessary for struggle and jihad to make them firm and genuine and continue in theory and action together, not separately.

Based on this, courage could partly be one of the characteristics of criminals just as cowardice is the characteristic of those who work in the dark to frighten women, the elderly, and children. Strong and continued faith now and in the future is a basic element in creating brave and faithful people, and trust is necessary to maintain courage on the road of telling the truth, establishing justice, and perpetuating the themes of the swords of knights and weapons of the sincere mujahidin and strugglers who are patient under all circumstances.

May God curse the greedy ones, and may God help those who covet other people's possessions so that they can return to Him with a strong faith and resolution. May God help us all confront all those who exploit others. This action is far from being a national zeal or a renowned honor. I have found and seen many people who can talk for too long, but when there is a need for a certain lofty action their weapons shake between their hands because they do not have strong faith or a principled wagering on the future, and do not view future and history as being greater and more important than the present. They become motionless and unable to press the triggers of their rifles or to comprehend the wisdom required to perform a certain task.

Comrades, some factors which used to have a limited effect on the tempers and stands of the people or some of them now have a greater effect. Their effect is now different from that which was overcome by the march of the revolution in 1974 at the most, or in 1978 at least. Despite this, we were not surprised by this phenomenon. This is because we are a besieged country, and because blockade is unjust, evil, and harsh. However, some people now have moral values that are greater than material values, and which are more than what they used to have before the revolution.

For example, only a small number of people were able to visit specialist doctors when they became sick, were able to buy medicine from private pharmacies, were able to cook their food each day, or were able to buy new clothes each season. [speech interrupted by call for evening prayer] Only a small number of people were able to eat seasonal fruits or even taste all or most of Iraq's fruits. Only a small number of people wore shoes outside their homes, especially in the countryside. Also, only a small number of people had a steady income or permanent jobs; and only a small number of students completed the elementary stage or continued their study after this stage. Those who now have private cars are far more than before. Only a small number of people had a television set or refrigerator in their homes. However, a large number of people wanted to possess things which they did not think of having before. Not all of this is a negative approach.

The circumstances of the siege added a weight to our shoulders. However, the mere feeling that the siege is imposed on our people on the land, sea, and in the air and that the siege, which was imposed by the Americans on 28 February 1990, is targeting our bread and all components of life, including aspirin tablets — I am saying that if the citizen truly has this feeling — it will make people feel that they are suffering. People's criteria and mood will certainly be affected by this feeling. Also, a large number of employees, whose only income is their salaries, have been greatly harmed. Although describing a negative situation is important, what is more important, is to takcle the negative situation or, at least, ease its impact. Such a real feeling and its symptoms call on us to tackle this situation.

We should remind people that we are besieged because the arrogant ones, particularly America and the Zionist entity, which usurped the land of the Arabs, want to achieve something. What the arrogant ones are targeting is our dignity, life, existence, and future. If they succeed they will deprive this generation and the coming generations of all the meanings, which will be a source of pride for the coming generations. They want to deprive our generation of the pride about which it boasts before the Arabs and the world now that the jihad and struggle in the glorious Mother of Battles and the steadfastness in the face of the siege have made this generation an example for all those who have honor, patriotism, and high humanitarian intentions in the Arab homeland and the world.

We should also remind people of the recent past and its effects which extended to the first years of the revolution when our country was without leaders, or without capable and patriotic leaders.

We want to remind people that in the past people could not buy medicine, and livelihood means were limited.

We also remind them of the insignificant role and reputation of Iraq and the Iraqis in that era. That was not in line with a great history carrying the values and principles of the early civilizations and two empires which well preceded all other world empires. In addition, Baghdad became a shining cultural beacon and a source of effective human thought, constituting an extension of the great values of the prophet of God, Abraham, the Iraqi Babylonian, the father of prophets, may peace be upon him.

We remind them of all that, and remind them how the revolution changed the lives of people, so much so that it became possible for a simple peasant's son or daughter to enter the engineering, medicine, law, or any other faculty. Before the revolution, such colleges were almost confined to other sectors, with the children of the poor present in minimal numbers. At a particular stage, if the poor had any chance to attemd such colleges, they would be almost strangers there.

We remind them of that, and remind them how the revolution enabled its Iraqi children to study in any college in the world that they requested and that suited their education and grades. Moreover, the daily traffic in the streets of London, Paris, Washington, Moscow, Sweden, Switzerland, former Czechoslovakia, and even Tokyo and Beijing began to witness ordinary Iraqi citizens going there for treatment at the expense of the state simply because their specialized doctors advised treatment abroad or said that treatment abroad was better. Moreover, sometimes patients or those suspected of having a certain disease were sent for treatment abroad simply because they were not convinced of their Iraqi doctors' diagnoses, plans, and methods of treatment.

We remind them of all that and of other innumerable things which we and you know. We tell them that this would not have happened had it not been for this regime and this leadership. We tell them with great and unequivocal certainty based on reliance on the Almighty God that if all the enemies of Iraq gather — and they did in the past, as you recall — they will reap nothing but failure and disgrace because their gathering is evil and your gathering is good. The flag carrying the slogan God is great will continue to flutter high, declaring the beginning of a new phase in the life of the Arabs and effecting a certain crossing to the shore of safety and a great victory that will give great meaning to every victory, consideration, and value. God is great.

Comrades, and through you to the great people: The tyrants of Quraysh imposed on the Muslims in the Prophet Muhammad's era in Mecca a three-year siege. We believe that God not only wanted to test and toughen Muslims' patience and deepen their faith, but also to give them what would increase their conviction of the injustice of the old era in Mecca and of the need for a revolution according to the concepts of Islam to save the population of Mecca and the edges of the Arabian Peninsula as a prelude to saving entire humanity by creating a new model and spreading the call of Islam. God also wanted to strengthen Muslims' steadfastness in the face of ordeals and enhance their preparedness for difficulties prior to their movement beyond Mecca to make their close and distant circles interact with them. Because their steadfastness was splendid, sympathy with them was in a sense a mixture of sympathy and interaction with a center of illumination and leadership, rather than sympathy with a wronged and weak party. That was an interaction with a party with strong faith and will.

This what was needed during the era of the message of Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace and blessing be upon him, throughout three years only.

However, you, Iraqis, because you are a great and faithful people, and although none of you can claim the role of a prophet or messenger, God forbid, God has, as we believe, entrusted you at your stage with the task of awakening humanity as a whole until the time which God wills. Because you are the people who are not the largest in number among the states, or even among the Arab states; because vice has deeply penetrated the consciences and minds of a considerable number of some who claim to be Arabs; and because the tyrants who cover a vast area in the world and have what they have in terms of threat and intimidation means, the blockade has been continuing since 6 August 1990 and will continue until God grants us relief soon to make us powerful and more respected, relief which will have the greatest possible effect. It seems that the blockade was necessary to awaken the Arabs and humanity, to clear the conscience of he whom God wants to support after humiliation, and to verify the firmness of stands. God is great.

If any Ba'thist, particularly the Iraqi Ba'thists to whom this speech is addressed during this congress, wants to redress his course or to make sure that he is proceeding in the right direction, he should pay extreme attention to his course, action, and way of thinking. Among the most important things he should discuss with his comrades are: How far are we from our values and high principles after a quarter of a century? These principles are unity, freedom, and socialism. The question here does not mean where do we stand in terms of our legal and administrative measures, what we call for in our speeches and our party and media literature, or what we were compelled to give to these principles, but where do we stand in terms of willing faithful adherence, taking into consideration the importance of what we call for despite the difficult circumstances under which our revolution and great people are passing, and of the high value of our legal and administrative measures. All issues related to high principles and to implementing them appropriately under conditions of justice and social care and balance based on immediate and future results are designed in accordance with the high principles and their standards, not in accordance with transient circumstances. It is not this that should be answered. Neither should it be the legal and administrative measures and decisions which are more important in forming the required answer. What should be answered in particular is the question: Where do we stand with regard to these high objectives, values, and principles? Where does anyone of us stand, taking into consideration the nation's cultural and spiritual heritage? Where does our comrades' faith stand with regard to them, particularly their readiness to make sacrifices under all circumstances? Where does everyone of us stand in terms of vivid examples and clear embodiment of conduct whenever it is necessary so that a policy can be formulated in this regard to safeguard these high principles based on the nation's history and all that it contains of glories and great spiritual values.

How far are we from this heritage and from the leading role which it entails and which is required to convince people and to set an example for them in terms of making dear sacrifices to win God's satisfaction and history recognition.

Comrades, ask yourselves, and through you, let us ask all the Ba'thists: How far are you from these principles? This question should be asked not when the need for highlighting or implementing these principles is clear — for the people and nation — in terms of significance and action, but when the picture shakes, under the pressure of special circumstances, and when the required sacrifice should be dear on the path of understanding, consolidating, and implementing these principles.

How far are you and are we all from these principles not when they seem to be the only available course — taking into consideration the political circumstances — but when they emerge as one of the available, but difficult courses and choices. I do not mean to lock or freeze the other available options if their sacrifices are less and if their roads are feasible in terms of developing the methods and reducing distance, time, and sacrifices. What I mean is that what is available will be an alternative to, or contrary to, the new affiliation which appeared amid circumstantial attractions and which is based on making fewer sacrifices or obtaining an additional morsel of bread.

The question stems from the inner feeling and thinking. The answer to the question should not be in words but in terms of course which must be as firm as the genuine mujahidin and strugglers. Then, God will show His satisfaction at a time when you become masters in your land and among your people and nation.

To accomplish the objectives of our political doctrine, whose center is our deep spiritual doctrine and our great history and heritage, our choice should be historic, not circumstantial; ideological, not political; and permanent, not opportunistic. We must choose the appropriate rule for it and not choose it as a means of ruling or a decoration slogan. The basis of the choice should be the high readiness to sacrifice everything for the sake of the nation and people when jihad requires that we make a choice on the basis of God's orders and on what our policy requires after we become convinced of it, not on the basis of making sacrifices because of certain circumstances.

Sacrifices should be motivated by the spirit of continuity based on the great principles, included in the Koranic verse: Fighting is prescribed for you, and ye dislike it. But it is possible that ye dislike a thing which is good for you, and that ye love a thing which is bad for you. But God knoweth and ye know not. [Koranic verse]

Unity is our pan-Arab and great humanitarian destiny, not a mere slogan to strengthen the meaning and effect of patriotism within its framework on the level of state. It is one of our major and important great historic objectives. We believe that unity will not be achieved without the nation's great historic awakening.

The nation can achieve a great historic awakening if it becomes aware of the historic role which should be assumed by every individual and if it also becomes aware of the necessity of this role. And this can be attained when everybody becomes aware of what is required from him in terms of the change in the objective and position. This cannot be achieved without reaffirming the three historic, moral, cultural, and practical objectives. They are: Arab unity; application of justice through socialism, which is entrenched in the roots of our rejuvenating spiritual and historic heritage, in a way that will produce creative minds and mature experiment; and achieving liberty in accordance with its balanced connection with the meaning and requirements of implementing the objectives of unity and socialism and with the concept that the achievement of any, or all, of the objectives can only be attained through development.

Since the application of any of them means development, this should mean promoting the dealing with and the meaning of the other objectives. Promoting any of these objectives does not justify any retreat in the others. The fact remains that politics has its own circumstances and requirements, not on the basis that the end justifies the means — something which we rejected when our party was first established — or on the basis of abandoning any of the other basic objectives of our party to facilitate the achievement of the other objectives, but on the basis of the fact that the means stem from their objectives. Since all our objectives are honest and legitimate, in accordance with the meanings of the spirit and civilization in the past, now, and in the future, our means, therefore, should remain honest and legitimate. Whenever we see an encroachment, we must stop it or correct the direction of the step and link it with the honest and legitimate objectives in a sound and proper way. Whenever one of our objectives advances in great strides, it will be a motive for the other objectives to move ahead on the same path.

We must be enthusiastic for the socialism which we seek when we are among the low-income or poor people, and when we are among the middle-income people, whether we are in or outside the office, in terms of measuring the role, impact, and the economic and social concept which are known in the thinking of our party. We will continue to struggle for the sake of socialism and for the sake of achieving its essence when the resources of our state and people are limited and when our country and people become prosperous. What applies to Iraq also applies to all the states of the Arab homeland and what applies to Iraq's Ba'thists also applies to all Ba'thists in all countries.

Socialism, in its distinguished meaning, just as our heritage is deeply rooted in it, and just as our choice of it was distinguished, is not a means to apply economic justice only, but is mainly a means to bolster the collective historic role of the people and the nation.

Socialism, whose essence is justice, and which can be promoted through collective efforts and action, is not restricted to its legal meaning even if it was a basic article in the constitution. However, it needs continuous follow-up at every stage and every day in all walks of life in a way which does not kill the movement of life. Neither does this way allow material life, including the economic life, to kill the spirit of man, his ability, and moral influence. Based on this, it is not enough to apply socialism to give citizens equal chances at the start line, but unfair phenomena should be pursued after the start line in order to safeguard everyone's rights. The regime should take care of giving equal chances so that the others' illegitimate games and tricks which are inherited from the fathers or grandfathers who had exploited the people and did not give the homeland its rights.

Freedom can be attained within the framework of its system which develops with the circumstances, resources, and the conditions of maturity and awareness on the level of the state and the people. This should not make us forget the state's role in a calculated sacrifice so that the people can learn the meaning of and exercise freedom, and what is required from them with regard to values, commitment, and readiness. This is in order to be aware of their role and abide by it. Based on this, the people's erroneous practices do not justify negative reactions by the state at the expense of these concepts and regarding the implementation of these concepts when they become mature at a certain stage. At the same time, the state, I mean the regime, should take into consideration the negative and positive effects of the people on the level of understanding and implementation, each in accordance with its stage, along with developing and timing formulas and means of implementation.

Comrades, the other subject I wanted to talk about is to warn against viewing measures or laws which we might make or issue in our social and economic life as being a kind of borrowing from or copying any religious policy. Our political ideology and declared principles spring their meanings from our nation's deep-rooted spiritual heritage and past cultural role. At the same time, it has set the meanings of its inception from this age and from what can be viewed as a right to the nation in terms of a role and a stand toward itself while vitally living with humanity, its creative work, or recession.

Because that is how we are, it is only natural for us to read, understand, assimilate, and interact with this history and its ups and downs and their causes. Doing so requires that we be positively affected by it and by all its great values and their vital effect on the life of the nation. This explains our stands when the citations that are made and the laws, administrative measures, and plans that are devised to organize our work and the affairs of the people prove to be literally identical to any religious policy in our age or in our past. Because they are made on this basis and because they proceed from a great faith that never accepts indifference toward atheism or any tampering with the pillars of religion in public or private practices, our measures can only be interpreted on the basis of the great Ba'th and its principles and the core of our mission, rather than being an imitation of any other religious policy.

He who thinks himself mistaken or right, according to his own standards of what is wrong and right, must be judged, accepted, or rejected on the basis of our Ba'th standards, and not on the basis of the standards of any other interpreter of old or new religious policies, in any religion or any sect.

Comrade members of the National Command, comrade members of the Iraq Command, comrade mujahidin, members of the Congress of Crossing:

In the past three years, including this year, we have faced unique problems. Although other peoples may have seen some similar problems in the 20th century or even before that, in our case, these problems came all at the same time and not in stages. We turned from people who used to import everything they need for their daily life, including bottled water, and wondering around in the world as tourists, or on business, or in search of better medical care with support and facilitates from their state, to a people exposed to an unfamiliar kind of siege. For the people to live under that siege, and for their leadership to succeed according to the new criteria which we have mentioned earlier, the people had to produce everything, or most of what Iraq used to import, and to import very little with very good management linked to these circumstances. This is not everything that can be cited as an example on this unique condition, which involves unfamiliar problems.

Let met cite two more examples in this congress. First: You know, comrades, that any regime in any Third World country faces problems different from those faced by the developed countries, or by countries that have made some progress, such as the less-developed countries which are usually called the medium-developed countries. But if we look into the measures adopted by Third World countries to resolve economic, social, and political problems, be they external or internal, we will see that they usually fall under solutions and objectives, or secondary objectives, in the light of the progress of the new abilities of their regimes in these fields.

Solutions, most of the time, are also linked with time. Problems become many when they are not addressed with time. In other words, a newly-established regime, which has just become free from colonialism or which came after a coup or revolution, is not required to solve all the problems at once. And people are not required, under all circumstances, to comprehend all the major headlines of the problems, the requirements of their immediate solutions, and the steps that should be taken to tackle them. Also, the people should not be addressed on the internal and external problems all together, on the external aggression and domestic treachery, or on the international and regional aggression. The people are not required to fight and build with the same interest, at the same time, and with the same positive effect and momentum; fight the enemies inside and outside while besieged; remove the debris and build what was destroyed by the aggression; and to proceed with new, promising, and ambitious projects while deprived of everything coming from abroad, including foreign currency, and when all banking and trade transactions, which were made before the aggression, are being frozen.

Iraq suddenly faced a world and a region, from which the harmful spears were being fired. That same world and region were until that day, on which the positions of the past were reversed, full partners, providing the supplies we needed from them and receiving what they needed from us in accordance with the concept of mutual interests in the commercial, economic, technical, cultural, scientific, and other ties.

We suddenly were cut off from the world and the region. We had to provide what we needed to live, build, produce, plant, and fight with the resources of a country that is subjected to an paralleled siege; a siege that lacked any degree of humanitarian feelings, even for propaganda purposes, which they themselves talk about in the field of the values, ethics, and international laws and norms.

At the same time, we must exert every possible effort, with great care, to play a role in making this world move from the positions of animosity, evil designs, and continuous harm to any condition, on the basis of which a certain level of cooperation with us can be based.

One can imagine this difficulty when we recall that the coalition opposing our faith and determination to see our country breaking free from its calamity and becoming healthy and able to act and exert an influence on both the national, Arab, and world levels, has been created at a condition in which those who showed hostility toward us had a free hand in the world. They demonstrated that hostility toward us through bombs and aggressive acts, which are prohibited according to even the most basic standards. By this, we refer to the United States and the disgraceful coalition it established with certain states and entities in the region, some of which, according to the standards of our region, are the biggest in size and have the largest financial resources.

Hence, the ones who turned against us are those who have the highest level of military capabilities, the highest level of political influence — whether through pressure or other methods — the highest level of financial resources, the highest level of technological and scientific capabilities, the highest level of economic capabilities, as well as the highest levels of media forgery.

So, we also had to firmly move ahead and to raise the banner of jihad and cling to it and support it with our souls, setting it on a sacred and prestigious land, the land of Abraham, the father of all prophets. This happened at a time when we are removing one arrow after another from between our ribs. As soon as we remove an arrow, the enemy quickly shoots another that rests in the place of the previous wound or misses it. In this case, no one with determination could say: Let us wait until the wounds heal before we move forward or let us wait until all arrows are removed so we can face new arrows.

Under these circumstances and after the chapter of betrayal and treason had been closed, the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party held its congress — the congress of struggle and construction. It adopted decisions over the past three years, which is the time between that congress and this one. We had to rebuild what was destroyed by the aggression. We also had to build the human being from the social cell, in its first simple meaning, to the party cell and platoon in the Armed Forces, down to the state organizations in most governorates. Indeed, we had to restore some lost information and traditions in their simplest meanings that are inevitable in order to form the basis of a first move forward that is somewhat simple and balanced.

Second: The other dilemma is that in view these problems, some of which, if not all, were extremely complicated, we faced the greatest problem of conflicting desires which often exceeded the limit of contradiction and reflected on every problem, which we have highlighted on this occasion. In order to conceive the nature of the conflicting desires and aspirations from their beginning — and some of them are continuing in our life to date — here are some of them:

Some believe that the most important thing to concentrate on is industry and not agriculture. Others say we should concentrate on services and agriculture. Yet, others say we should concentrate on the oil sector. Some say that we should concentrate on agriculture to produce grain, while others think we should import grain and not get lost in agriculture, which may not respond to our needs. Others think we should concentrate on tomatoes and vegetables due to our needs under the current circumstances. Some believe that the leadership should mainly concentrate on building state organizations, while others think that we should concentrate on reorganizing and rebuilding the party.

Some people believe that merchants should be given a free hand in importing and fixing the prices, even though other people may be crushed to death, the homeland may be lost, and trade itself may be undermined. Some others call for restricting trade and the traders even though they may be crushed. Moreover, we would not be surprised if some people call for disposing of traders and urge the government to take the responsibility of trade temporarily. Some people believe that nothing other than commodities that are essential to human life is necessary. Some others call for these concepts and raise other slogans, but they do not defend, as they should, the measures taken by the state and the party in their areas of jurisdiction when the law is violated and punishment should be inflicted. Some people believe that it is necessary to reduce crime and fight the criminals, but some others protest when strict decisions are made to fight crime and criminals.

Some people call for allowing everybody who has enough money to import and sell, but some others reject this and protest over their inability to buy what can meet their desires. The majority or the entire people complain about high prices, but nobody sells at prices in conflict with his protest against high prices of goods and services. Those who sell goods or extend services under contracts fix the highest price possible. Some people want to buy goods and have services at the lowest prices possible. When the state fixes a certain price, they do not comply with it, although they know that compliance with such a price is in the interest of the majority. Some people want to sell the state's products and services at prices in accordance with the market standard of the private sector. Some others want them for nothing or at very low prices.

Some people call for certain forms of socialism that can meet their desires and interests. Some others call for the ugliest, the most cruel, and meanest aspects of capitalism that is stripped of every human value in order to meet their desires and interests. Some people call for Arabism in the same spirit and forms of the first calls, some others call for Iraqism in the ugliest forms that were adopted by Salih Jabr and Nuri al-Sa'id. Some people call for applying the taxation system, some others evade it using every crooked and illegal ways.

We can give more examples of the fields of business and intellectual affairs. But the ones we have given are enough because they show the problem of the conflicting desires under these circumstances. Amid these conflicting desires of people, who live in one homeland and sail in one ship toward safety through which all the sublime meanings can be realized, the leadership should have always found solutions to these conflicting trends — solutions which will not necessarily be reconciliatory but independent ones, which have their own concepts, bases, methods, trends, and results. In light of this, we have suffered much from some wrong solutions, views, trends, behaviors, and whims, which hit us stronger that the heaviest missiles and bombs of the aggressors. At the same time, other people's cry for their bread and their legitimate needs embarrasses us and causes pain for us because we cannot relieve them, although such a cry may achieve the minimum level we are seeking to make our people happy.

O comrades, you can imagine the extent of pain in our bloods, consciences, minds, and hearts with every step and decision and with every action and reaction here and there. O comrades, regarding relations with the Arab states and regimes, we still recall our policy, whose beginning have become stable since 1978 during and after the Baghdad summit that was convened that year despite Baghdad's deep wounds and despite the extreme harm caused to great Iraq by the cursed ones.

The essence of this policy, which we believe it is inescapable to revive and to implement, is that Arab regimes are an established fact. This fact is not perpetual and is prone to change, given various factor most important of which and even foremost of which is the national will of this people or that in any country wherever such will may find an opportunity and a conducive atmosphere for change. Hence, it is not wise to ignore the importance of a minimum degree of relationships with these regimes whenever the opportunity is available to build such a relationship on a basis that will serve the interests of the Arab nation vis-vis-vis certain issues. This despite the fact that we are now quite clear about that loopholes and weaknesses inherent in these regimes and about their serious deviations, which amounted to high treason regarding this issue or that — deviations that were committed under certain circumstances, or under the pressure of influential factors, whether these regimes were pressured of lured by external parties or whether these regimes were influenced by parochial and narrow-minded calculations spurred by selfishness or by a despicable parochial vision, which is either inherited or fabricated by rulers in accordance with their perverse calculations.

This policy should not be affected emotionally and temporarily in terms of rejection or acceptance or in edging closer or keeping far away vis-a-vis a certain event or issue. Defending the land of Arabs against and resisting partitioning and foreign occupation is a basic pillar of our policy. This pillar is not contingent on the type and nature of the regime, given the fact this is a pan-Arab policy springing from our fundamental pan-Arab principles. Translating this policy into political positions should be subject to evaluations based on the situation and available resources. Each positions should be based on other positions related to this or that Arab country and to the details of the positions and conditions of certain regimes and rulers.

In sum, we agree on any possible minimum degree of bilateral or collective relations that would serve the Arab nation and cause the deteriorating situation to rise above deterioration, deadly weakness, and humiliation by the foreign parties or due to any other reason. Our policy should not come at the expense of struggle or concrete aspirations of the Arab people in their respective countries and it should not waste an opportunity that would help our system to be distinguished all the time from other systems in terms of pan-Arab, international, and national positions so that our march can serve as an example and yardstick for any action or policy.

Comrades: On the international level, the countries' considerations, influence, and ability on rejecting what is unacceptable and the reasons they cite for accepting what is acceptable have become generally more clear to us following the so- called end of the cold war, the disbanding of the former communist bloc states, and the developments witnessed in the world. Therefore, reviving our former relations with the countries — with whom we believe reviving our relations is necessary and possible — will be based on more accurate calculations of Iraq's interests and the calculations of the other party. We should realize that what is called friendship, within our concept, is almost nonexistent in the current international relations and that the minimum degree of confidence is possible. However, such confidence will be shaped by the size and nature of interests and the stability of our country based only on its development and resources. We will press ahead along this path although the factors for improving it to become serious and influential hinge, in terms of their level and final shape, on lifting the embargo. However, there have been encouraging beginnings, according to the form that we mentioned, with those whom we have accorded a priority for reasons related to our current and future circumstances.

Iraq's role and international relations are promising, God willing, because the great Iraq is there, capable, and influential in its surrounding area and in the Middle East in general. The Middle East is largely at the center of the countries' interest and relations for reasons that have become known to all.

Comrades: Any human being who has great values and objectives seeks to reach the peak pursuant to these values and objectives. However, we only reach the peak when we do good and work to please the people and the nation, when we have a clear conscience, and when we are convinced of our leading role and responsibility toward taking care of the interest of the majority of people, if not all the people. Above all, when we have a great faith in the merciful God's power.

Only then can a great man reach the peak because he basically has it within himself, and in his mind, conscience, feelings, and action. By this, he will be satisfied and will achieve loftiness in the name of God, as well as some of the meanings of eternity. Because I wish you this position, and in fact, I only view your struggle based on this image, I wish you as I wish myself, to win this status, whether in the eyes of the people and the nation now, or when the stage of our struggle will be an honorable part of the history of our nation and people.

Comrades, faith is a basic condition to achieve victory. However, a shaky faith in the possibility of achieving victory will only lead to inevitable defeat no matter how strong or effective the other factors maybe. Let us base our efforts and jihad on this basis, and let us rely on the ranks of the faithful ones after we rely on Almighty God. Plain victory will then be inevitable.

God is great, God is great, God is great. Damned by the lowly.

Defense Minister Places Wreath on Soldier's Tomb

JN1707152595 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On behalf of Staff Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, Staff General fighter 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, today placed a floral wreath on the unknown soldier's tomb on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the glorious 17-30 July revolution.

Government Troops Reportedly Attack INC Forces

LD1707153995 London IRAQI BROADCASTING CORPORATION PRESS RELEASE in English 1505 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salahuddin, Iraq (17 July) — An IBC correspondent reports that a confrontation took place today between Iraqi Army troops and forces loyal to the Iraqi National Congress (INC) near the city of Irbil in northern Iraq. The Iraqi troops were known to suffer a number of dead and wounded, no opposition casualties were reported.

During the night of 16 July, the First Brigade of the First Mechanised Division of the Iraqi Army moved toward Irbil from Lajan village along the Lajan-Kani Karjala road.

By 0915 a.m. [0515 GMT] local time today the Iraqi troops had advanced approximately 3 km when they were confronted by forces loyal to the INC and their advance was halted. All Iraqi government troops were forced to retreat to their original bases. Eyewitnesses report that the government troops took their own dead and wounded soldiers. Iraqi troops were also seen towing a burning T55 tank in retreat.

As of 1430 this afternoon the retreat was continuing.

The confrontation took place approximately 15 km by road from Irbil.

Regime Forces Reportedly Attack PUK Positions

NC1707164395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] After Mas'ud Barzani's treasonous leadership started the third round of fighting, attacked the peshermga forces of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK], and bombarded homes and villages in Kurdistan; and after this leadership was utterly defeated in all combat areas, it then tried its luck in full, open coordination with the Baghdad regime.

At 1300 today, the dictatorial regime's artillery began bombarding the Irbil post and the positions of the PUK's peshmerga fighters. At the same time, the treasonous and agent leadership of Mas'ud Barzani started to bombard residential areas in Irbil. After the defenseless citizens of Irbil underwent an hour of intensive shelling by the joint Saddam-Mas'ud forces, the Mas'ud Barzani forces tried to attack the peshmerga positions in [word indistinct] near Irbil.

The valiant defenders of Kurdistan heroically confronted the treacherous aggression and destroyed the aggressors, causing their total defeat. Peshmerga artillery bombarded the centers and positions of Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] gunmen, causing serious loss of life and equipment.

Preliminary reports state that the attempts by the KDP gunmen were totally defeated.

PUK Leader Congratulates Forces on Victory

NC1707183295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 17 Jul 95

["Text" of cable sent by PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani to Kusrat Rasul 'Ali, prime minister of the Kurdistan region on 17 July — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Greetings from Jalal Talabani to brother Kusrat Rasul and all the commanders and Kurdistan peshmerga heroes on the Irbil axis.

Respectful congratulations to you, the commanders, and the Kurdistan peshmerga on defeating the joint assault by the 'Aflaqites and their followers Mas'ud and (Nejerfan), whose deep, treacherous ties with the enemies are being revealed daily.

It is becoming clear that Mas'ud's mercenaries not only steal from the livelihoods of the poor, the families of martyrs, and the laborers in Kurdistan, they also collude with the fascist ruling regime in Baghdad to obstruct the liberal Kurdish movement. Before, they submitted and abandoned the Kurdish people's 30 years of struggle and sacrifice and stole tens of millions of dollars.

Now, after they again stole tens of millions of dollars, they are trying to undermine the parliament and the regional government in Kurdistan. But the PUK and the peshmerga forces in Kurdistan will bury their feeble dream.

Press ahead to a final, resounding victory over the 'Aflaqite dictatorship. Establish a democratic, parliamentary, and federal Iraq. May you prevail and may your victory endure.

[Signed] Jalal Talabani

[Dated] 17 July 1995

Baghdad TV Reports Irbil Shelled by Barzani Forces

JN1707192495 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1855 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The city of Irbil today came under fierce artillery shelling by Mas'ud Barzani's group. The special correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Irbil said that quarters (Bitayati), (Qal'ah), (Miniskawa), (Payrzin) complex, (Shawis), (Tirawah), and the camp were exposed to artillery, mortar, and rocket launchers shelling.

Mas'ud's group also launched an attack on Jalal Talabani's group in Kani Qirjala but could not achieve any results, as Talabani's group put it. This group shelled Kasnazan in retaliation for Mas'ud's shelling of the city of Irbil.

The special correspondent of the Iraqi News Agency in Irbil added that the al-Jumhuri [republican] Hospital in Irbil became full of wounded and dead people and that health care was absent. In addition, most doctors and medical cadres fled and electric power was cut from time to time.

KDP Radio Reports Battle With Jalalis Near Irbil

JN1707194495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A fierce battle has been waged between our brave peshmergas and the defeated Jalalis in the Kani Qirjalah area, 12 km to the west of Irbil. Our heavy artillery strongly pounded the positions of the Jalalis. The fighting continued between 1230-1830 [date not given]. The enemy forces sustained heavy losses in personnel. Tens of the enemy forces were either killed or wounded, and the Jalalis left six bodies in the battlefield in front of the positions of the Kurdistan peshmergas, the heroes of Barzani and the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP].

Army Reportedly Kills 'More Than 50' Citizens in Mosul

JN1707181495 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our sources in Kurdistan have said that more than 50 citizens were killed and more than 170 were wounded in the Mosul Governorate recently in the armed clashes which took place between our people and the regime forces' entrusted with guarding grain stores in the governorate.

The sources added that the citizens were able to move more than 150 tonnes of flour three hours after storming the stores. The force, which was charged with guarding the stores, could not stand in the face of the citizens. The force was beefed up with additional forces from the mercenaries of the emergency force and the so-called Saddam Fedayeen, who besieged the area and began indiscriminate shooting at the citizens. The situation is still tense in the Mosul Governorate following the regime's seizure of the farmers' crops. The regime forces then surrounded the governorates with army units and checkpoints and arrested those who were suspected of taking part in the events there.

SAIRI Seeks To Intensify Operations

LD1707152495 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — Head of Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) Ayatollah Mohammad Baqir Hakim has said in his recent meetings with other Iraqi opposition leaders he had offered several proposals to intensify anti-government operations inside Iraq.

According to the SAIRI head, his proposals have been warmly welcomes by other Iraqi dissident groups.

Speaking to IRNA before his departure for Syria Sunday, Hakim said that the SAIRI was seeking to step up encounter between Iraqi opposition and Saddam Husayn's regime, united the Iraqi people, and revive cooperation between people and the army while at the same time safeguarding Iraq's territorial integrity.

The ayatollah noted that in his recent visit to Britain, he proposed to London-based Iraqi political dissidents the intensification of operations against the Iraqi regime and stressed the need to set up a headquarters to coordinate anti-government operations inside Iraq.

Ayatollah Hakim also refuted reports alleging that he was planning to miigrate to Syria as "mere lie" and said such rumors had been most probably circulated by agents of the Baghdad regime.

Hakim said that his visit to Syria was aimed at studying the situation of Iraqis residing in Syria and holding talks with Iraqi political forces in Damascus.

As for the conflict between the two major Iraqi Kurdish parties in northern Iraq, Hakim said that the SAIRI has always called on leaders of the two warring Kurdish groups to show self-restraint, patch up their differences and has reminded them that their conflict is to the detriment of Iraqi people and in the interest of the enemies of Iraq.

Referring to the Islamic republic's support for the oppressed, he said Tehran has actively tried to end bloodshed in northern Iraq using its influence on leaders of Kurdish group and this has made the enemies of Kurdish community namely Saddam Husayn and the U.S. unhappy.

On the activities of terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq organization (MKO) inside Iraq and those responsible for recent attacks on MKO members, the ayatollah said that the MKO members were hated by the Iraqi nation because of their collaboration with the Baghdad regime in suppressing the Iraqi people.

He added that the MKO members were accessories to the massacre of Iraqi people after the U.S. led allied forces drived Iraqi forces from Kuwait.

The MKO has also actively participated in suppressing popular uprisings of the Iraqi people in Ar Ramadi, Karbala, Najf, Al Basrah, Al Amarah and in other cities, he said, adding that it was natural for the zealous young Iraqi people not to be indifferent to such crimes being committed by the terrorist outfit.

Peres To Meet With Mubarak, 'Arafat in Egypt

TA1707162795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will hold talks on Wednesday in Alexandria with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. The decision was taken this afternoon in contacts between the three parties. Israeli officials say the trilateral meeting is aimed at advancing an agreement with the Palestinians and as an expression of the importance Israel attaches to Egypt's role in the peace process.

Rabin: Syrian Talks Must Be in 'Agreed' Format

TA1707162495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the future of negotiations with Damascus is uncertain following Syria's violation of agreements reached on how to proceed in the talks. Speaking in the Knesset, the prime minister said he is insisting that the talks take place in the format agreed upon, and he indicated that he wants the Americans to resolve the problem before Secretary of State Warren Christopher comes to the region next month. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says the Syrians have agreed to the resumption of the negotiations between the two ambassadors to Washington, Itamar Rabinovich and Walid al-Mu'allim, and with the participation of a military expert on each side. But Rabin says he is sticking to his demand that the original agreement be adhered to that senior military talks take place next in Washington. The prime minister says this is more than a technical point.

[Rabin] I see it as a violation of what was agreed by a statement that was made by Secretary Christopher in Damascus towards the end of his visit that led in the first phase to the meeting of the chiefs of staff of the armed forces of Syria and Israel in Washington and to the visit of the peace team headed by Ambassador Dennis Ross. I was surprised to learn that the Syrians don't keep their commitment to the secretary of state.

[Ze'ev] The premier spoke after a closed-door meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Inside, a Knesset official says, Rabin explained that he is standing firm on what would seem to be an administrative issue because if the Syrians do not keep to what they agreed to with the Americans, who will guarantee that they will stick to the assurances they make to Israel. The prime minister says he has no doubt the Syrian refusal to go on with the previously announced format of the talks is due to its objection to Israeli early warning stations on the Golan Heights once the heights are back in Syrian hands.

[Rabin] Our position that in the context of peace between Syria and Israel and in a context of a withdrawal — that its size I am not going to define now — there is a need, as part of the security arrangements, to have warning stations to prevent surprise attack on both sides.

[Ze'ev] Rabin warned that the problems in the negotiations with Syria could bring about more violence in the border area between Israel and Lebanon, though he hopes otherwise.

On the Palestinian track, the prime minister said Israel's position is that it will guard Rachel's Tomb, located at the entrance to Bethlehem from Jerusalem. Rabin said an effort is being made to establish Israeli-Palestinian cooperation in the 460 meters leading up to the site. He said he hoped the 15 bypass roads in the West Bank could be completed by December, and he said, water and sewage remain a problem. The prime minister said there was an effort to encourage international investment to solve the sewage problem, and that without a resolution to the water issue, Israel will not sign an agreement with the Palestinians.

On Jerusalem, Rabin said that the issue of who can be elected to the Palestinian council will apparently be resolved through the compromise that Jerusalem candidates also have residency elsewhere in the territories. And the prime minister said: If the Palestinians do not nullify parts of the Palestinian Charter which call for Israel's destruction within two months after the council elections, Israel will delay further agreements. [end recording]

Editorial Views Talks With Syria, al-Asad

TA1607101095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 16 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "The Syrian Shift"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The sharp shift in Syria's stand over the early-warning station on the Golan once again proves that President al-Asad does whatever he feels like with the peace process: He disregards the Israeli side, denies past agreements, and ignores the fact that the Rabin government's schedule is getting tighter. Things the Syrians accepted only a week ago are no longer acceptable today. Why? Because. Because this is what al-Asad wants. He just felt like it.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres explained yesterday that the Syrians repeatedly demand that Israel pledge a full withdrawal before they agree to discuss anything else. The Israeli Government must ask itself how it allowed al-Asad to maneuver it into a position of an inferior partner in these nontalks. Every significant move is dictated by al-Asad: When the talks are held, what is being discussed, and with whom.

Rabin and Peres always reserve the right to be surprised. It is as if al-Asad won the war and is sitting on Israeli territory; as if the Syrian Army is the stronger; as if the Russians are still around. Even those who are willing to give the Golan back to the Syrians in return for peace must admit that, in the contacts with al-Asad, Israeli diplomacy is a total failure. If it wants to regain what is left of its tarnished status, Israel's Government must announce that it is stopping the talks with Syria and present its own terms for their resumption.

Daily on Reason To Question al-Asad's Credibility

TA1807082095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 18 Jul 95 p 2

[Editorial by Dov Genachowski: "At Long Last"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At long last, the prime minister has finally decided to put the Syrians in their place. Rabin raised a genuine question regarding al-Asad's credibility: Why should someone who fails to keep an ostensibly technical commitment to the United States fulfill future commitments toward Israel?

The U.S. attempt to play down the depth and seriousness of the crisis in the talks with Syria indicates the importance Washington attributes to reaching an agreement, regardless of the degree to which this comes at our expense.

Negotiations, especially in the Middle East, must involve a process of give-and-take. This has not been the case until now, through no small fault of our own. One should hope that the prime minister's statements yesterday mark a turning point in the forced march and its transformation into real, bilateral negotiations.

Bigger U.S. Investment in Peace Process Urged

TA1607111895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 95 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "A Syrian Stauber Document"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Why was U.S. mediator Dennis Ross in such a hurry? Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad went back on a commitment he made to Israel and the United States, and the head of the negotiating team hurriedly dropped his shuttle mission and took off for Washington. This is no way to build peace.

Infinite patience is needed in the Middle East. There seems to be no need to repeat that Warren Christopher, acting through his emissary Dennis Ross, is no Henry Kissinger, which is a shame.

Twenty-one years ago, Kissinger shuttled between Damascus and Jerusalem for weeks, fighting every inch of the way. It looked impossible and perhaps insane, but the agreement holds, and not a single shell has been fired at the Golan Heights since.

Curiosity, at least, should have kept Ross in the region because, after all, something has happened in Damascus. Ross' arrival in the region was preceded by a surprising announcement on Syrian radio that said al-Asad would agree to place ground early-warning stations on the Golan, provided they are not manned by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers but by foreign forces.

Before Peres even had time to cheer the Damascus announcement, it became apparent that this was a sort of a Syrian "Stauber document." Someone leaked a contingency plan to Syrian radio — the last line of Syrian concessions that was discussed under a veil of secrecy in al-Asad's presidential palace.

This was a mishap the dictatorship is not familiar with. In the Israeli democracy, things like this go away after a no-confidence vote in the Knesset and several newspaper headlines. In Syria it caused such a shock that the Syrian president ordered everything shelved, the announcement canceled, and the negotiating stands toughtened.

This development deserves closer inspection, and an American presence could help solve the riddle. Only Washington could tell al-Asad that a media mistake his government made is no reason to demand additional Israeli concession. Indeed, one of the Syrian secrets was made public by Damascus radio, but Syria should not be trying to cover this with an extreme and contradictory demand.

One of the negotiators described al-Asad as "a sour man," perhaps even strange. He reacted as if the leak on his own radio station shook him up. An early demand that Israel drop its demand to hold on to Mt. Hermon is a clear way to stop the talks.

Yitzhaq Rabin did the right thing when he rejected this demand, wisely fearing a precedent. The closer the negotiations get to their conclusion, the more the "sour man" of Damascus will shrug his shoulders. He had better realize right away that he will not be paid in Israeli currency for his transparent twists.

So, now the talks are deadlocked and moved to the ambassadorial level. Itamar Rabinovich is a skillful negotiator, but al-Asad has placed an issue on the negotiating table that the parties agreed to put off until later.

The political issues at the center of the conflict were destined to await a decision by the heads of state at the end of the negotiations. The security talks indeed opened in a successful meeting between Amnon Shahaq and Hikmat al-Shihabi. If they continue on the level of more junior officers, they are bound to drag on until they reach stalemate. Talks between the chiefs of staff and senior officers of both sides are essential now to overcome the hurdle of both parties' security needs.

Israel must not pay twice for the same merchandise. The understandings that have been reached bind the Syrians as well. If al-Asad indeed decided to back off from the peace process because of doubts he has had all along, Israel needs to expose this as soon as possible. If, however, this is one of his ordinary extortion attempts, the American mediator should make it clear to al-Asad that his whims will not pay.

Rabin and Peres heard that Rabinovich is going back to Washington clearly knowing that the odds for making peace are not better than 50 percent. In the absence of a prolonged American presence in the region, and in view of the harsh circumstances created by Ross failing in his mission, it is Rabinovich's duty to make it clear to the Syrian diplomats in Washington that the Israeli warning that time is running out is not just a gimmick.

'Unfairness' of Pollard Case 'Deliberate Cruelty'

TA1407112095 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Let Pollard Go"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Until recently, it was possible to treat the Jonathan Pollard case as no more than an example of arbitrary injustice which proves that life can be unfair. But now the case has become a major blot on the reputation of the U.S. and an indictment of American humanism and sense of justice. It raises the awful possibility that even in the world's greatest democracy, deliberate cruelty and a senseless oppression can become government policy.

The unfairness of the Pollard case is so palpable that it defies understanding. It is clear now that Pollard could not have done the U.S. any harm, and that the suspicion that his action did damage to American interests was based on false information planted by master-spy Aldrich Ames.

As NEW YORK DAILY NEWS columnist Sidney Zion has put it, "The moment Pollard was arrested in 1985, Ames started spreading the news that Pollard's info to Israel was delivered by a mole in the Mosad to the Soviet Union. This made sense to the intelligence community...and it appears to have convinced Caspar Weinberger, then secretary of defense, that Pollard was the worst spy in American history...Weinberger delivered a 46-page secret memorandum to Pollard's sentencing judge that practically demanded a life sentence."

Now the U.S. intelligence community is refusing to admit error. Having exhibited unpardonable incompetence in the Ames case — one of the worst cases of treason in American history, which cost the lives of at least 10 U.S. agents — it is refusing to exonerate Pollard. Such conduct is not unusual in bureaucracies, particularly those which can shroud themselves in secrecy. Nor is it uncommon for intelligence agencies to sacrifice lives to preserve their reputation.

But the mystery with which these agencies try to surround the Pollard case cannot conceal the facts. Pollard committed a serious crime, but not treason. He provided classified intelligence data to Israel. He says he did it because the U.S. was withholding critical defense information from Israel after Iraq's nuclear facility was bombed, and that he believed his actions were necessary to prevent another Holocaust. The events of the Gulf War tend to confirm his claims.

But his motives are not as relevant as the simple fact that he spied not for America's enemies, but for one of its closest allies. At no time in American history has anyone convicted of such a crime received a life sentence. What makes Pollard's life sentence particularly outrageous is that the U.S. Justice Department promised him that in exchange for a guilty plea and the waiving of a trial, it would only ask for no more than "a substantial sentence." Up to that time, no spy who worked for an ally received a sentence of more than 10 years.

In the past 12 years, 11 men and women have been convicted in the U.S. for spying for various countries — South Africa, Ghana, the UK, Philippines, Egypt, and Greece. Most received sentences of two or four years. Only one was sentenced to more than 10 years (Steven Lalas, convicted of spying for Greece, who was given 14 years in 1993). It is difficult to view the punishment meted out to Pollard as anything but a flagrant application of a double standard.

Having spent 10 years in prison, half of them in solitary confinement, Pollard is up for a parole hearing next month. His wife Esther, now visiting Israel, says the terms of the sentence make it virtually impossible for the parole board to release him. Both Jonathan and she believe that if he is granted Israeli citizenship, the chances of his release on a Presidential pardon will immeasurably improve. Citizenship will stress Israel's readiness to assume responsibility for his actions and enable Washington to free him as a political gesture. Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss has expressed support for the idea. Indeed, Israel should grant him citizenship, and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin should ask for his release in the most forceful manner.

But above all, it is President Bill Clinton who should understand that every day Pollard stays in jail erodes America's reputation as a country with a heart, and its credibility as a bastion of fairness and a just society. It is time to let Pollard go.

U.S. Seen Pressing for Expanded Exports

TA1707110795 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV ('ASAQIM supplement) in Hebrew 17 Jul 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] The Americans love marking targets. For the past several years they have repeatedly pressed Japan to open up its markets to American products. Now that they have reached that goal, Israel has become the new target for the expansion of U.S. exports.

The Americans are not settling for the gesture Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin rushed to make — changing the method of calculating the price of cars for licensing and insurance — but wish to significantly enhance exports to Israel in the near future to prevent them from falling behind Israel's massive imports from Europe.

In the coming week, Industry and Trade Minister Mikha Harish will meet U.S. trade representative Mickey Cantor. It is believed that Cantor, who heads the campaign for the expansion of U.S. exports, will present Harish with his views on the trade relations between the two countries. Harish's message will clearly be that wherever Israel can shift trade from Europe to the United States, it will do so. Cantor will find an ally in Harish, who is known for his criticism of the way Europe has been treating the new trade agreement with Israel. Practical discussions will be held in October, however, when Cantor comes here as Harish's guest.

The Israeli market has become increasingly important for the Americans over the past several years. Israel is No. 20 on the list of countries to which the United States exports. In this regard, expanding exports to the Israeli market is considered more important than to the Spanish or Argentine markets.

The American message to the Israeli Government is unequivocal, as presented by Dr. Martin Indyk, the new U.S. ambassador: It is incomprehensible that the United States should finance the large trade deficit between Israel and the EU, which currently stands at $7.5 billion.

Indyk added that the Americans will not accept discrimination against U.S. goods, especially when the United States stands at Israel's right side under all circumstances, continues granting Israel $3 billion in aid annually when foreign aid is being slashed, and has given Israel $10 billion in loan guarantees when the Israeli Government pledged to buy U.S. goods. And what do you do? the ambassador asked, replying: You are buying from Europe.

Indyk's sharply worded attack stunned officials in the Jerusalem administration. They did not expect the new ambassador to make such blunt statements against the government and its treatment of trade relations with the United States. The officials believe that clarifications will be made in the form of intergovernmental negotiations in which each side presents its complaints against and demands of the other. It seems, however, that the Americans have lost their patience and want to enjoy the Israeli "shopping spree," expressed in a rise in imports over the past several months.

The Americans have launched a campaign to expand their share of the Israeli market. They will no longer tolerate a situation in which most of the Israeli imports come from the EU, while U.S. imports were only $4.4 billion last year; some 18 percent of the total Israeli imports. The Americans are mainly angered by the fact that their exports to Israel did not rise significantly while the dollar-shekel rate remains frozen, making American goods cheaper than European products paid for in marks or pounds sterling.

The Americans are not happy with several clauses of the free trade zone agreement with Israel, signed some 10 years ago. They presented their demands in the round of talks held in Jerusalem last week. Harish made it clear that it is important for the United States to realize Israel insists that essential elements of its economy will not survive a total opening of the market for imports, mainly agricultural produce and processed food, to the gigantic American market.

The Americans have been exerting heavy pressure on Israel to open its market to U.S. food products. They are convinced that the Israeli consumer will enjoy the lower cost of the U.S. products, when compared with European products. As an example, Ambassador Indyk pointed to corn flakes. He believes that if the import of this product from the United States is allowed, it would be significantly cheaper than that imported from the EU.

The restriction on the import of such products from the United States is due to the demand that the packaging of U.S. products meet the standards accepted in Israel. The Americans, however, are not ready to make such a packaging revolution and are pressing to change the local standard. The Industry and Trade Ministry has promised to come up with a compromise that would help the Americans expand their exports of food products to Israel.

Another demand the Americans have been making pertains to meat imports. They want Israel to allow the import of meat from Nebraska, but the Chief Rabbinate does not recognize the kosher stamps of American rabbis. Minister Harish has been lobbying the Rabbinate to change its stand, and the Americans will join the effort by demanding that the U.S. rabbis' kosher stamps be recognized. Harish and the Americans are obviously facing a tough battle on this issue.

The Americans are making a clear argument: The Israeli consumer is being punished by a policy of discrimination against U.S. imports. At the same time, if imports of U.S. food products do rise, Israeli factories will have tough competition.

In the talks in Jerusalem last week, the Americans made a surprisingly firm demand that the rules of origin be changed, asking that the method of calculating the rules of origin (which define the source of the goods exported to the United States) be replaced with the method they are using in the framework of their trade agreements with Mexico and Canada. Israel demands that the change not impact on the scope of current trade and even allow its expansion. No agreement has been made on this issue.

Another firm demand the Americans made was that the Israeli market open to the exports of U.S. agricultural produce. After some tough negotiations, it has been agreed that Israel would be able to keep up the current policy of imposing levies and quotas on U.S. farm imports, but will give preferential treatment to certain U.S. goods that will be determined soon.

The Americans are still angry with the Israeli customs method of charging extra percentages. They maintain that this method discriminates against imports, prefers local products, and impairs the Israeli customer's freedom of choice. The Americans hinted that the customs people have so far managed to fool them, promising to change the method but not keeping their promises.

The Americans also have serious claims regarding the rules pertaining to intellectual property, claiming that the current state of affairs harms software and pharmaceutics companies. If the rules do not change, American companies will avoid activity in Israel.

The Americans do not intend to go easy on us with their economic demands. Ambassador Indyk has decided to make it his business to pursue the economic issue during his term in Israel. He will call on the offices of the prime minister and the economic ministers and demand that they open the Israeli economy to U.S. products. Indyk has already found an ally: Prime Minister Rabin, who is known for his sharp criticism of the $7.5 billion trade deficit with the EU.

Rabin Rejects King Husayn's Appeal for Bosnia Aid

TA1807080395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin turned aside an appeal by Jordan's King Husayn three nights ago to provide unspecified assistance to Bosnia. In response to a question about Bosnia in Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday, Rabin said, "While as a human being and a Jew I condemn persecution on religious grounds, I told (Husayn) that I believe it is the job of Europe and other strong and rich countries" to come to Bosnia's assistance.

Cabinet Discusses Redeployment Costs, Issues

TA1607112395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The cabinet was today presented with the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment plan for Judaea and Samaria, known as Spectrum B. The heads of the defense establishment, the IDF, and the police also presented the projected costs of the redeployment.

After the session, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat told Qol Yisra'el he prefers to finance the redeployment plan through budget cuts rather than by raising taxes. Shohat assessed the actual costs of the redeployment will be less that the 2.5 billion shekels estimated by the defense establishment.

After the cabinet session, Minister Yosi Sarid said there is no such thing as peace and arrangements for free, adding that the budget must be cut because new taxes or economic decrees are inconceivable.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that in the cabinet session, Prime Minister Rabin accused Meretz of harming state security because of their ministers' position against a law which will enable the transfer of regular soldiers to the police. Our correspondent reports that the defense establishment believes that the transfer of regular soldiers to police duty will save a great deal of money for the defense establishment. Meretz ministers, however, are against this plan.

Trials of Settlers To Remain in Civil Courts

TA1607160195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Trials of settlers will continue to be held in Israel's civil courts. This was decided by the prime minister in conference with the justice and police ministers, the attorney general, and defense establishment representatives. The decision runs counter to Attorney General Ben-Ya'ir's proposal to try settlers charged with security-related offenses in military courts.

Settlers Make W. Bank Claim Before Redeployment

TA1807080795 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Settlers moved six mobile homes onto a barren hill in Efrat yesterday, and 12 families moved into empty apartments in Qiryat Arba', as settlers moved to stake their claims before IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories.

The six mobile homes that were moved to Giv'at Hazayit in Efrat came just four days after Prime Minister Rabin gave his permission to place 18 mobile homes on the hill. This followed protests last week, during which 42 settlers were arrested. [passage omitted]

Yehudit Tayar, a spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, said the Efrat residents moved the mobile homes on the hill now because of the feeling that, "We have to get there before the Palestinians, we have to put something on the ground to keep the Palestinians from taking it over."

In Qiryat Arba, meanwhile, 12 families moved into the Ashmoret Yitzhaq neighborhood in the settlement, also trying to stake a claim before IDF redeployment.

Qiryat Arba' activist David Wilder said, "An underlining factor in the move is the feeling that anything left vacant is up for grabs."

Settlers' Isolation From Society Viewed

TA1607155195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Jul 95 p B1

[Commentary by Gid'on Levi: "Losing Points"]

[FBIS Translated Text] First the good news: The settlers are gradually isolating themselves from the rest of Israeli society. More and more Israelis are getting sick of the settlers' halakic rulings calling for civil revolt, their jamming of the country's roads, and their violent clashes with the police. This development was to be anticipated, but the settlers, more desperate and impatient than expected, seem to have jumped the gun. They are already using far too much of their ammunition before even one settlement has been evacuated, basically shooting themselves in the foot. The rabbis' halakic ruling, compounded by the behavior of their flock over the past few days, have naturally shocked large sectors of the public. Army officers, rabbis and politicians alike, the president, and Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef all spoke out against the ruling. The majority of Israelis do not like soldiers who refuse to carry out orders, regardless of their motive. Military service remains a sacred cow that is off limits.

The threat of military insubordination is viewed far more gravely than most of the criminal offenses committed by the settlers up to now. They can squat in empty apartments, turn over stalls, shove policemen, beat up Arabs, shoot Arabs...but to disobey military orders? Not that. The entire Israeli political spectrum unites temporarily when it comes to the issue of military service.

In tackling this ethos, the settlers made their first serious mistake. Their second mistake was threatening to disrupt the Israeli public's daily life. Israelis do not like their lives to be disrupted anymore than they like the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] to be messed with. If the settlers make good on their threats and, for example, start to block traffic axes — with them its never just roads but always "traffic axes" — as some of them already did on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, they will lose whatever public opinion points they have left.

Settlers causing a traffic jam in the July-August heat? Thousands of knitted skullcap wearers burning their identity cards in the city square? There is nothing the majority of Israelis, who could not care less about the fate of settlements like Tapuah or Qadim, find more repugnant than this.

Knesset Member 'Oded Zucker joked this week that the Jerusalem highway was clogged by left-wing activists disguised as right wingers. Nor should one get overly excited about all the dramatic warnings this week from numerous public figures about internecine dissension. An internal rift? Maybe it is all for the best. Perhaps the negligible minority of extremist settlers should become even more isolated from the rest of the Israeli people, so that the sane majority can pursue their path. There is another reason for us not to be traumatized by talk of internal division, however: To all intents and purposes, the public has been polarized for a long time.

The common denominator between the settlers and the rest of Israeli society, including its right-wing flanks, has never been so narrow. The similarity between the cultural, social, and political world of a settler from Ma'ale 'Amos and that of someone from Tel Aviv's

Ramat Aviv or Hatiqva neighborhoods has always been rather tenuous. Now such people have exceedingly few meeting points, if any. The problems of one group do not interest the other, nor do they share each other's joys. The Ma'ale 'Amos settlers view the residents of the coastal plain as incorrigible, nihilistic hedonists, while the latter consider the settlers from Ma'ale 'Amos a bunch of eccentrics, at the very best. The gap between the two groups has been more than political for a long time. There is a yawning cultural chasm.

The fate of the settlers and their enterprise is less and less of interest to Israelis: Most of them have never visited settlement country, except when on military reserve duty. Moreover, the rabbis' ruling has exposed cracks within the right wing itself: The National Religious Party [NRP] squirmed, while the leader of Tzomet roundly condemned the ruling. Thus, the settlers continue to isolate themselves not only from the left wing and the political center but also from large segments of the right wing. From the point of view of the peace lovers, this is a positive development.

And more good news from the settlers: The more they channel their frustrations into overt, spectacular actions, the smaller the risk of any underground activity. On the contrary, let them demonstrate, protest, disrupt traffic — just as long as there is no new Jewish underground. The nightmare of another Barukh Goldstein could become a reality overnight, and an even bigger nightmare — that of a fringe group planning to destroy the Temple Mount — keeps the country's top security officials awake at night. But as long as the settlers are busy venting their frustrations and anger at traffic intersections and next to illegal trailers, the danger of them carrying out clandestine, far more dangerous activities grows smaller.

It was always clear that the extent of the settlers' ability to affect the peace process would be decided primarily not by their activities in Sabastiyah and Qiryat Arba', but rather by the degree of support for them in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The level of this support declined even more last week. There were not too many cries of identification with the settlers' cause or expressions of readiness to act on their behalf in central Israel. Their demonstrations continue to be attended almost exclusively by people wearing knitted skullcaps. Secular right-wing supporters are staying close to their air conditioners.

The settlers assert that they are now launching a battle for their personal security and very existence. At the end of last week, a senior security source expressed the assessment that the settlements faced far greater dangers during the intifadah than anything they should expect following the IDF redeployment. After a three-month hiatus in terrorist attacks, there is also less concern for the settlers' personal safety.

And now for the bad news: Despite all the above, the halakic ruling and the settlers' behavior bode ill. They signify that the settlers are becoming increasingly desperate, and desperate groups of ideologically motivated people always mean trouble.

SHAS Declines To Join Coalition, Tells Rabin

TA1707044895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef has informed Prime Minister Rabin that SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] will not join the coalition at present, but will support it while in opposition.

A Qol Yisra'el reporter says the SHAS decision will enable the premier to go ahead with the appointments of Ehud Baraq as interior minister and Yosi Beilin as minister of economic affairs and planning. The economics portfolio will be relinquished by Shim'on Shetrit, who remains minister of religious affairs.

Ehud Baraq Registers as Labor Party Member

TA1607160295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ehud Baraq, who is to join the cabinet later this week, this morning registered officially as a member of the Labor Party. His appointment to the cabinet as minister of the interior and of Yosi Beilin as minister of economic planning is to be endorsed in two days time by the Labor Party Central Committee. It will then be ratified by the Knesset.

U.S. Congressman Richardson Arrives in Amman

Received by King Husayn

JN1707180395 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn received U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson and his accompanying delegation at the al-Nadwah Palace today. Her Majesty Queen Nur and His Highness Crown Prince Hasan attended the meeting.

Richardson voiced his appreciation for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to establish a comprehensive and just peace in the region. He said that the U.S. administration highly appreciates his majesty's efforts and seeks, along with the sincere in this region, to realize peace and security in the region.

The meeting was attended by Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, and the U.S. Ambassador to Jordan.

Departs With Freed American

JN1807063495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0430 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Congressman Bill Richardson has left Amman for Washington. He had an audience yesterday with his majesty the king during which he voiced U.S. appreciation for the king's efforts towards establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

The U.S. congressman was in Amman following a visit to Baghdad during which he secured the release of two American citizens. One of the two men left with Mr. Richardson to the U.S., while the other will leave for Kuwait later today to join his family.

Both Americans were freed from an Iraqi jail on Sunday after serving four months of their eight-year sentences for illegally entering Iraq from Kuwait.

Al-Kabariti Views Saudi Visit, Future Arab Ties

NC1807072495 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in Amman by Shihatah Abu-al-Majid in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Abu-al-Majd] Mr. Minister: Good morning and welcome to Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-Kabariti] Good morning and welcome.

[Abu-al-Majd] Your recent visit to Saudi Arabia came at an extremely important time. Observers and analysts expected it to lead to positive results for Saudi-Jordanian relations after the estrangement that followed the second Gulf crisis of 1992. What are the important results you reached following your talks with senior Saudi officials?

[Al-Kabariti] First of all, I believe that what you called estrangement was an abnormal case in abnormal circumstances. We believe that these abnormal circumstances are over, and hence, things among Arab brothers must go back to normal. In a spirit of fraternity, sincere amity, and confidence in our common future, we were warmly received by the brothers in Saudi Arabia, chief among them being His Highness Prince Sultan and His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. I believe that our talks, which were frank, objective, and in-depth, in the final analysis will serve Saudi-Jordanian ties first and the views I put forward; namely, the need for reinvigorating inter-Arab ties to prepare for the new century. These ties need to form one solid entity that carries a weight and magnitude befitting the position of our nation. The talks were successful, God willing, and I believe that our relations with fraternal Saudi Arabia are due to witness more coordination, cooperation, and a better future.

[Abu-al-Majd] What agreements have you reached to bolster bilateral ties?

[Al-Kabariti] To bolster and continue the dialogue, it was agreed that a Saudi ambassador would be appointed in Jordan. To promote economic ties, it was agreed to reactivate all the previous agreements, including importing Jordanian commodities and agricultural products into Saudi Arabia. To strengthen popular interaction, it was agreed to ease the granting of visas and the renewal of resident permits for those who meet all the conditions of residence in Saudi Arabia. It was also agreed to continue the dialogue, and I may go back to Saudi Arabia soon.

[Abu-al-Majd] Did you ask Saudi Arabia to mediate or try to restore your ties with Kuwait, for instance, and other Gulf states in the future?

[Al-Kabariti] The review of Arab conditions in general and Jordanian-Saudi relations in particular was extensive enough that inter-Arab relations were the source of very close attention by the Saudi officials. For my part, I have briefed the Saudi brothers on our views on the strategy of common Arab action, the future of inter-Arab ties, and the need to establish a mechanism to serve this strategy. I believe that the cornerstone here is good-neighborliness, and Saudi Arabia is Jordan's largest neighbor. I believe that if things improve [with Saudi Arabia] it will have to reflect positively on our relations with all the Arab states.

[Abu-al-Majd] There are two opinions about the restoration of inter-Arab common action. One says that we must forget what has happened and turn over a new leaf, while the other says that frankness must precede reconciliation. Which of the two opinions does Jordan favor?

[Al-Kabariti] We have long been calling for frankness before reconciliation, but we said that shaking hands must precede frankness. I believe that frankness is essential because we are talking about a future based on new foundations of clarity and strength. Accordingly, frankness is a must if we want this future to be based on these foundations we are proposing. I believe that part of our talks with the Saudi brothers focused on frankness, which must involve all aspects of relations and all aspects of the things that have caused the lukewarm relationship and stagnation that marked some inter-Arab relations following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

[Abu-al-Majd] There are reports of a Saudi-Egyptian-Jordanian summit. How true are these reports and did you discuss the matter with the Saudi officials?

[Al-Kabariti] I have not discussed the topic of any Arab summits, neither tripartite nor multiparty summits. All I can say is that there will be an Egyptian-Jordanian summit soon. His majesty the king has announced that he will visit Egypt soon, which is our duty in order to congratulate his excellency the president on his safety and to complete discussion of the topics discussed earlier. We always believe in the need for coordination and cooperation between Egypt, the big sister, and Jordan.

[Abu-al-Majd] What will be discussed in this summit in view of the current mood in the Arab world concerning the desire for genuine Arab solidarity and the people's hope to reach decisive results in the peace process in the second half of this year or early next year?

[Al-Kabariti] There are many things to be discussed with the Egyptian side. Egypt has led the peace drive and consequently, it concerns it and us to make this process just and comprehensive. Another issue is that of Arab solidarity and the need to resort to dialogue to resolve all Arab problems. Then we have the question of bilateral ties and many regional and international issues of interest to the two leaders, particularly the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. I believe that when the two leaders meet, the agenda will be extensive.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you, Minister al-Kabariti.

[Al-Kabariti] Thank you.

House Voices Indignation Against Bosnian 'Massacre'

JN1707175295 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The House of Representatives voiced its strong indignation against and vehement denunciation of the grisly massacre being committed by Serb troops against unarmed civilians in the Republic of Bosnia — a massacre that is still claiming the lives of hundreds and displacing scores of thousands of civilians.

In a statement issued today on the bloody incidents in Bosnia, the House called on the international community to honor its pledges on protecting civilians in Bosnia.

Al-Kabariti Receives Palestinian Planning Official

JN1707164495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti today conferred with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority. The two ministers reviewed the developments of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations on expanding the area of the Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, Palestinian prisoners and Israeli efforts to release them, and Palestinian elections.

Al-Kabariti said that Jordan will continue to support the Palestinian position on settling the issues pertinent to the interim stage issues so that the Palestinian negotiator can move to the final stage without any obstruction.

The meeting was attended by 'Umar al-Khatib, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman.

In a press statement following the meeting, Dr. Sha'th said that Jordanian-Palestinian relations are characterized by full and positive cooperation and coordination in all areas. He paid tribute to the efforts of His Majesty Husayn and the Jordanian Government to release Palestinian detainees.

Answering a question, he highlighted the importance of extending the area of the Palestinian self-rule and adhering to fixed dates regarding this issue. He also stressed the importance of meeting the demands of the Palestinian people. He added: We will not accept anything less than what we have agreed on to give a push to the peace process.

Buwayz on Security, 'Awn's Right To Return

MM1707130595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Jul 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Buwayz: Israeli Security Strategy in the South Failed; No One Opposes General 'Awn's Right To Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut — Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that General Michel 'Awn is entitled to "return" when his residence in Paris expires. And "no one opposes his return."

In an open conversation conducted yesterday in the Arab and foreign correspondents hall at the Information Ministry in the presence of the ministry's director general, Muhammad 'Ubayd, on the occasion of the "Lebanese detainees days," Minister Buwayz said that Israeli security strategy in southern Lebanon "has failed, and time and the resistance have proved that the southern swamp is stronger than the advanced technologies. There is no other solution but for Israel to move out of all Lebanese territory."

He said that "Lebanon will be willing to resume negotiations with Israel when an understanding is reached over a detailed solution to the issue of security arrangements (in the Golan). Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the peace process, is trying to fill and narrow the gaps between the Syrian and Israeli sides with a view to preparing for a resumption of the military negotiations at expert level."

He pointed out that the ground early-warning stations represent an important obstacle, and Syria is rejecting the Israeli proposal in this connection. "Because early-warning stations necessitate that there be technological elements, means of communications, and other associated matters — which means the continuation of the Israeli presence in the Golan, something Syria rejects completely. But if such stations are a must, Syria does not object to the presence of friendly international forces with no Israeli presence."

Asked whether Lebanon is preparing files for the negotiations with Israel, he said, "our view is very clear vis-a-vis the withdrawal geographically, militarily, logistically, and at security level. There is a clear view regarding Lebanon's rights and natural resources: the waters of the al-Litani river, whose source and mouth are both in Lebanon. This issue is not subject to negotiation at all...the southern army is an internal issue that concerns us. At any rate, we cannot overtake events. However, matters are clear here and based on large quantities of files and papers...so rest assured."

Buwayz regretted the lack of harmony between the resistance and the state. Answering another question, he said: "The U.S. mediation is continuing, and contacts between the Lebanese and Israeli Governments are also continuing over the situation in the south. Washington is for calming the situation. But our view is that the resistance will continue as long as Lebanon has not obtained a pledge of a complete Israeli withdrawal from its territory."

Hizballah Chief: U.S. Remains 'Great Satan'

AU1707115795 Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 17 Jul 95 pp 118-21

[Interview with Hassan Nasrallah, secretary general of Hizballah, by Adel S. Elias in Beirut; date not given: "America Remains Satan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Elias] Your Eminence, Islamic fanatics are throwing bombs all over the world, and in particular the Shiite Hizballah has become synonymous with violence and hostage-taking, terrorism, and bloodshed. Your Party of God has declared a Holy War against the Christian West. Do you think a conflict between the Orient and Occident is unavoidable?

[Nasrallah] We are not bloodthirsty terrorists. The Christian West has created a distorted image of us. With this it intends to frighten its people and establish a new enemy image. What we are striving for is an Islamic awakening, remembering our personality, which has been overwhelmed in the course of history.

[Elias] This sounds rather harmless.

[Nasrallah] No one can be surprised that, after the long years of colonialism, of tyranny, and of losing our identity, we are right in the middle of a period of Islamic revival. We have almost forgotten our culture because of the West's brutal interference.

[Elias] Can remembering one's own values take place only via violent fundamentalism?

[Nasrallah] If fundamentalism means a return to one's origins, I like being a fundamentalist. If this fundamentalism gives me back my identity, my dignity, and my freedom, I state very loudly: Yes, I am a fundamentalist. But if the West links fundamentalism with arbitrary killing, hatred, and massacres, then I say: Our Islamism has nothing to do with these disgusting deeds.

[Elias] But you cannot deny that your followers wish death and destruction to the West.

[Nasrallah] My friend, listen well: We are on the defensive. We defend ourselves against the West's massive interference, against its shameless support of rulers in this region, who rule against the people's will. We are not interested in attacking the West, conquering

Vienna, or fighting the battle of Poitiers [Charles Martell defeated the Arabs in 732] once again. This accusation is simply ridiculous, if one sees how oppressed we are here, how our leaders and thousands of our Islamist intellectuals and thinkers are persecuted, tortured, and killed.

[Elias] The NATO secretary general recently stated that, after the collapse of communism, Islamic fundamentalism is one of the biggest dangers for the West.

[Nasrallah] This statement is primitive instigation. We want to bring our peoples in the Arab and Islamic world together in a community, an 'Umma, a nation — just as the Europeans are working on their union or just as the Americans have united to form the United States. We do not demand any more or any less than full sovereignty over ourselves. We want to choose and elect our rulers ourselves. We want to decide which political system is the best for us. This corresponds to the right to self-determination, which the West is praising so highly.

[Elias] No one prevents you from doing that as long as you do not violate other people's freedom in the process.

[Nasrallah] Indeed? However, we also want to do as we please with our raw materials; we reject the interference of the West and of the international exploiting corporations. If the West sees this as a danger, it can go to hell. I warn you: We could become far more dangerous, if Europe and the United States were to prevent us from regaining our freedom and self-determination.

[Elias] Does your concept of freedom also include the right to spread Islam with fire and by the sword?

[Nasrallah] Nonsense. The Koran says quite clearly: "There is no compulsion in religion" and it adds: "Call (the people) with wisdom and a good admonition onto the path of your lord and struggle with them in the best possible way! Your lord knows very well who deviates from his path and who is following the right path."

[Elias] These noble and peaceful principles are not followed anywhere in the Islamic world.

[Nasrallah] Anyone who avoids or fears dialogue has nothing to offer. Do not forget that our nation has brought the light to the Occident when it was still sleeping deep in the Medieval darkness. Our religion does not forbid us to talk to people of different beliefs and live peacefully with them: "God does not forbid you to be pious and just toward those who have not fought with you because of religion and who have not driven you from your houses. God loves those who act justly."

[Elias] Why then is it impossible for the Hizballah to coexist with the Jews in Israel? You have sworn to destroy the State of Israel, while Arab governments all around are making peace.

[Nasrallah] When our prophet Muhammad received the revelation, there were also Jews and Christians on the Arab peninsula. Our prophet concluded nonaggression treaties with the Jews and guaranteed them freedom of belief. It was the Jews who did not adhere to these treaties.

[Elias] And that is why the Jihad, the Holy War, is justified?

[Nasrallah] I must remind you that the beginnings of Islam were very peaceful and without bloodshed at first. It was the prophet and his followers, who were then persecuted, stoned, fought against, spat at, and threatened. Until then the Muslims were not permitted to use violence against their opponents. Both this historical example as well as the founding of the Islamic Republic of Iran by Imam Khomeyni show that the Islamists do not attack anyone themselves but simply fight back in self-defense, if they themselves are attacked.

[Elias] Khomeyni's revolution mercilessly persecuted its opponents, even in exile abroad.

[Nasrallah] The revolution had to defend itself. Foreign powers instigated internal unrest. Almost all countries supported Saddam Husayn's war against Iraq. The Americans still have not given up their plan to destroy the Islamic Republic.

[Elias] People are being murdered and tortured in the name of Islam nowadays. Do you perhaps agree with killing women, children, and foreigners? The Islamists do have to accept being measured not only by their words but also by their deeds.

[Nasrallah] There are movements that have put an Islamic label on their banners but behave in a way that has nothing at all to do with Islam. I say this publicly for the first time now: We are worried and alarmed because we have the strong suspicion that many Islamic movements have been established and equipped with weapons by the great satan America.

[Elias] Yes, of course, the great satan.

[Nasrallah] Listen to me. Such groups are not headed by imams or Islamic intellectuals or thinkers. Rather, individuals have joined together, who call themselves Islamists or Islamic fighters but are, in reality, manipulated by the United States.

[Elias] The Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria is hardly a creature of the Western intelligence services.

[Nasrallah] The West is pleased about the atrocities in Algeria, because they provide it with the opportunity to generally condemn Islam. However, originally the Salvation Front did not use violence against the regime. It accepted the democratic rules and won the local and parliamentary elections in Algeria. Then the army staged a putsch. Did the West defend its democratic ideals? Did it condemn the military putsch or come out against the inhuman arrests of Islamists? The government and its western protectors are responsible for the situation in Algeria.

[Elias] What is your personal position on the concept of Jihad?

[Nasrallah] In our view, there are two definitions of this term: the defensive Jihad and the aggressive Jihad. A classical example of the defensive Jihad was given by Iran when it was attacked by Iraq. Iran defended itself, its people, and its property for eight years.

[Elias] What are the Hizballah attacks from southern Lebanon on Israel? This is an aggressive Jihad, isn't it?

[Nasrallah] No. We did not march out and persecute and kill the Jews all over the world. Rather, they have come to us to Palestine from all over the world and have taken possession of the land, driven out the inhabitants, and, in addition, occupied a large area in southern Lebanon. Day by day they are waging war against us — just now their planes are going supersonic above us. We have declared the Jihad against them, but in our view and on the basis of international law, we have the right to resist occupiers.

[Elias] And where do you see a Jihad, which begins to become aggressive?

[Nasrallah] You want to tempt me again to admit the aggressive nature of Islam. However, Muslim conquerors were always just and merciful. Everywhere, where Islam came to power, there were religious minorities, which were protected by the Islamic government. Look at Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, and Iraq: There are still Arab Christians there, who have not been eradicated in any way. In Iran, too, Christian, Jews, and other religious minorities exist and are not bothered.

[Elias] They are perhaps tolerated, but they are certainly discriminated against.

[Nasrallah] We have a different concept of a democratic state. If a state, the majority of whose cities are Muslims, declares itself Islamic and refers to the Koran as its constitution and its law, it is quite natural that this state puts only Muslims in leading positions who protect the constitution and rule according to Islamic law.

[Elias] The advance of fundamentalism is often explained with social, political, and cultural frustration in the Islamic world, because the Muslims have not managed to link up with the West's modern civilization. Do the Islamists suffer from an inferiority complex, which leads to aggression against the West?

[Nasrallah] These are unjustified accusations. I rather think that the West is intellectually bankrupt. It has nothing with which to counter Islamism except for abuse and humiliation. When the prophet told Jesus Christ his message, the Jews accused him of being a liar and a charlatan. The West is now acting in precisely the same way toward the Islamic reawakening. It tries to denigrate any stirring of independence and emancipation among us.

[Elias] What gives you this idea?

[Nasrallah] Is there a western-style democracy in Saudi Arabia? Is there a constitution, a parliament? In Iran, on the other hand, a constitution is in force, which was adopted by the people in a referendum. We have an elected parliament and an elected president. Nevertheless, the West considers us to be undemocratic and does not respect us. The Saudi Government, in contrast, is a family enterprise, a despotic regime, and is still honored and respected. The United States is not interested in the political program of the Islamists. The United States just keeps an eye on whether or not an Islamic government opposes its interests.

[Elias] The United States is and remains your great opponent?

[Nasrallah] Of course, the United States remains the great satan. For us satan is a criminal, just like a liar, thief, or murderer. Satan always sows strife. The great satan America helps the little satan Israel. It supports rulers in this region, who rule against the will of their people. But if a government does not bow to the Americans it is put on the list of terrorist states, punished with economic sanctions, and bullied until it does not see any way out and submits to the will of the great satan.

[Elias] Iran is not suspected of terrorism because the country resists U.S. influence. It is angering the West much more by sentencing Salman Rushdie to death with a religious verdict, for instance. Have you read "The Satanic Verses?"

[Nasrallah] I have read an Arab translation of the book. Rushdie did not deal with Islam intellectually, he did not weigh arguments or discuss theories. He insulted and dishonored the holiest elements of Islam.

[Elias] Which holiest elements?

[Nasrallah] He denigrated the person of prophet Muhammad and the holy book, the Koran. He ridiculed the prophet's followers. No one — neither in ancient nor modern history, neither in poems nor in novels — has ever written as abusively about Islam as Salman Rushdie. Rushdie is disgusting. What he did was lewd, indecent, impure, atrocious, and contemptible.

[Elias] Maybe, but not worth a death sentence.

[Nasrallah] We venerate our prophets. The West, on the other hand, does not seem to value its prophets. This is the difference between your culture and ours. Human rights, which you like to hold high in the West, must also protect the religious feelings of pious Muslims. After this shameful deed, Rushdie is no longer a human being, he has lost any human quality. If someone descends to this level, then it does not hurt me to issue a death sentence against him.

[Elias] At least, he has expressed remorse and repentance. Actually, you should be able to pardon him.

[Nasrallah] If, after a murder, the killer says he repents, this does not help the dead person. Remorse and repentance may help Salman Rushdie on Judgment Day, but not in this world, no matter how great his remorse is.

[Elias] Thus, the fatwa is final?

[Nasrallah] It remains in existence, it will never be rescinded.

[Elias] Is the separation of belief and politics, of religion and state conceivable at all for Islam?

[Nasrallah] No. Christianity is a religion of preaching, of moral attitude, but not of laws and the sharia. Islam, on the other hand, regulates every detail in the life of a person, from birth to death. It includes clear laws, which permeate the entire social life. The Koran offers all solutions for the problems of life. Therefore, a separation of state and church, as it is logical and even necessary in Europe, is not possible for us at all.

[Elias] Does this contradiction not automatically lead to a constant conflict with the Christian West?

[Nasrallah] We are willing to coexist and cooperate peacefully with the West. The question is: Does the Western world want that, too?

[Elias] Your Eminence, thank you for this interview.

Hizballah Source Views Party's Options

NC1707112595 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Ibrahim al-Amin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Questions by observers and followers of Hizballah's general conference have focused on what that party will do if there is a settlement in the region, whether it has already started taking internal and external steps and measures to "save its neck," which is always necessary, how it will act if Syria signs a peace agreement with Israel, what the status of the Islamic forces in Lebanon will be in that case, and whether the conference has tackled these issues.

But the answers given by prominent figures in the party might be completely different from what is expected, firstly, because Hizballah is not going to reveal its program for the coming stage whether there is a settlement or not, and secondly, because its political interpretation does not acknowledge reports that there will be a settlement soon or that it is realistically within reach. The source [as published] says that the conference discussed this issue as part of the discussion of the political documents dealing with local, regional, and international situations, including the status of the Islamic movement in the world.

The source adds that the party is focusing on "finding a formula for derailing the settlement in order to further the liberation of the territories. It appears that this option has recently become feasible after several years when the possibility of a settlement prevailed as the sole feasible option since the Madrid conference."

The source adds: "The complications that might affect the settlement process — either as a result of difficulties with the agreements already concluded with some parties or on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks — give the others an opportunity to let the peoples of the region review the conditions for the capitulation peace and discuss the postsettlement situation. Thus, they can discuss how can these peoples and their forces of liberation can help foil the U.S. settlement plan."

The source believes that "the evolution of the 'Islamic Resistance' in the south and its spread to the occupied Palestinian territories, where it evolved into popular confrontations and heightened armed operations against the occupation army, strengthen and consolidate the principle of competition between two views: a settlement or its failure. Thus, the resistance operations have delayed the settlement for an important period of time." The prominent Hizballah source said: "We believe that the U.S. and Israeli elections are definite stumbling blocks for completing the settlement. Hence, arguments revolve around the situation that will prevail in the region after these elections. Therefore, the arguments over whether there will be a settlement or not will become fiercer."

The source adds that if a negative or positive decision on the settlement is objectively impossible, then it can be said that, in light of known developments, at least a year and a half will be lost. The resistance's action has succeeded in increasing the fears of the enemy, who has become more convinced that he cannot get real agreements, so they have imposed more conditions. And this has made Syria and Lebanon more committed to their rights and has also opened the door for others to be more intransigent vis-a-vis the Israeli demands.

The source does not fail to note that the party "considered the issue of a settlement two years ago. Then, we said that if the settlement worked out, we would have to develop the necessary vision and take the necessary precautions and discuss ways to deal with things. But this remains the party's own business and we will not reveal it. We decided not to discuss the issue in the form of expectations or otherwise, because some people's elaborations on a settlement reveal their cards and develop incorrect public opinion. This is a waste of time when what we need is to work to weaken that plan while it harms the nation. So it is wrong to discuss the settlement as if it were a reality."

The source was asked how the reality of the 'Islamic Resistance' can be seen today and how this reflects on the party's special relationship with Syria. After all, Syria is engaged in negotiations to achieve a settlement that is in fact opposed to the idea of liberation on which the Resistance was built. How can Syria justify this position when it rejects the positions of all the other parties involved in negotiations, including the Lebanese Government? The prominent Hizballah source says he believes the general goal is to liberate the land. "There is no harm in consolidating every effort toward that goal. As for how this is done, there are many methods and each side has its own circumstances. We see benefits in allying with Syria in this connection. But we do not subjugate our Resistance to the negotiations or the settlement, if it happens. Resistance is meant for liberation, nothing else. This does not affect our position. It will not harm us if others accrue benefits from our resistance. But it is not true that we are working as part of the settlement symphony. It is illogical for men to go to their deaths when they are subject to such considerations."

The source adds: "We are a Lebanese party. As far as our country is concerned, we have declared our position openly. We refuse to engage in negotiations. The enemy must withdraw without conditions and our resistance to this occupation will continue. We do not think Lebanon will give up everything free or fail to maintain a minimum limit if it engages in negotiations independently of Syria [sentence as published]. There is ample past experience. We are not obliged to offer justifications for anyone. We are against the settlement principle, part and parcel."

Asked about the party's position on the view that Lebanon is not negotiating and that it has resigned its role for Syria's sake, the source said: "It is the enemy that does not want to negotiate with Lebanon. Our demand is full, unconditional withdrawal. The enemy wants Lebanon to sign independently of Syria and wants it to strike at the resistance in the south. If this is hard to achieve, on what should Israel negotiate with Lebanon?"

How can Hizballah accept the July understanding and how can it justify it when it was the result of negotiations on certain incidents that were outside the scope of the settlement? The source replies: The July understanding was a way to cover up the ineffectiveness and failure of the aerial attack on the south and the failure of its political aftermath. In fact, the understanding did not change our plans. We were carrying out military operations against the Israeli army and the agents. We did not rely on the katyusha as a strategic or priority weapon. The resistance would not have succeeded had this been the case. The 'July understanding' came to link the katyusha bombardment with the Israeli bombardment of civilians. Thus it was an "agreement that kept all the cards in our hands and none were taken from us, while it committed the enemy to options he did not have. He (the enemy) felt after some time that this understanding was not in his interest and he thus started to reiterate demands to amend this understanding in a way that would unsettle the resistance. But this did not happen and will not happen."

The prominent source insists that this matter was not done as part of the negotiations or the settlement and therefore any talk about pressures exerted on Hizballah and the Islamic forces is baseless.

Regarding the position of the Islamic movement in the region, the source believes that "it is stronger and will get stronger despite the repression it is subjected to, repression that in the worst cases led to chaos and destruction of the country as is happening in Algeria. Though we do not call for clashes, we do not accept this method of repression."

The source speaks about an unintentional and uncoordinated distinction between the various Islamic movements. This distinction makes it hard to judge or apply the same logic to the Islamic movement. When mistakes are made here or there, we find the way to talk about them to these forces. But we are not willing to serve the enemy and regimes by publicly criticizing some movements and positions. Moreover, we do not need to exercise this criticism because the party does not pursue similar lines which we believe to be unnecessary. The public can see the distinction.

The prominent source believes that, as part of this Islamic movement, Hizballah is playing its good role and is not thinking of abandoning the confrontation with Israel. If the circumstances of Lebanon and the resistance dictate a special tactic, we will never declare that our support and backing for the liberation of every usurped territory will end, even if Israel withdraws from all the occupied Lebanese territories. We do not believe that it is useful to reiterate and pledge before the enemy that it [the resistance] will stop and his borders will be protected if he withdraws.

Correction to Hizballah's Structural Changes

NC1707103895

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Hizballah Introduces Structural Changes," published in the 14 July Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 50: Column one, first paragraph, last sentence make read:...international political formula. [new paragraph] The new thing about the conference, the fourth since the party was officially established after 1985, were changes introduced to the organizational structure without touching the essence of the mechanism within which the decisionmaking process works to settle some issues connected with developments...(rewording and supplying indistinct words) Column two, second paragraph, last sentence make read:...directly executive nature. In the past the Council acted as an office that prepared political decisions and political contacts...(rewording and supplying indistinct words) Column two, paragraph five, fifth sentence make read:...is less significant. It includes Hizballah...(deleting editorial note) Page 51, column two, paragraph one, first sentence make read...of religious authority. Some believe this authority should be combined with the political authority based in Iran, while 'Allamah Fadlallah does not conceal his opposition to this and many members within the party support him in this. The prominent Hizballah...(rewording and supplying indistinct words)

Khaddam Interviewed on Status of Negotiations

NC1707140495 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 10 Jul 95 pp 1, 17

[Report on interview with Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam by Faysal Salman and Ibrahim al-Amin in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has declared that peace between Syria and Israel is possible within 10 days if Israel would decide to comply with the UN resolutions, agree to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders, and accept equal, reciprocal, and identical security arrangements.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR, Khaddam said that the military negotiations with Israel have not produced specific results yet, explaining that the two delegations are presenting their views on how the security arrangements can be implemented in the event a peace agreement is reached.

Khaddam added: "The conceptual agreement of which we have spoken means that we have reached an understanding on the principles and foundations of the security arrangements. The latest meeting of the chiefs of staff was designed to find out the Syrian and Israeli views of how to implement these arrangements. It became apparent that we disagree with Israel on this issue."

Khaddam asserted that the latest round of talks was "serious, unlike the earlier one." He said that the Israelis "discussed the issue in earnest but this did not bridge the wide gap between us."

The Syrian vice president referred to the U.S. position, which he said "was earnest," noting that "Washington is playing a major role" but that "the issue hinges on what decisions Israel makes."

He added: "Some Western circles are urging Syria to be more flexible and help Yitzhaq Rabin's government to remain in power. What do they want from us? How can we help him? Should we concede our rights in order to help him? Is it our problem or Rabin's problem?"

Khaddam emphasized: "We have rights deriving from common sense and international law. We will never concede a single inch of soil. Only one way leads to a real solution, namely, full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and acceptance of reciprocal and equal security arrangements."

Asked if the seriousness that Israel showed during the latest round of talks was significant, Khaddam said: "We are interested in results. Until we get results, it does not concern us if this seriousness is based on an Israeli wish to reach a solution or on political factors in Israel itself. What we want is a just, comprehensive, and honorable peace."

Asked what effect Israeli domestic conditions have on the negotiations, Khaddam replied: "They keep telling us. Hurry up and make matters easier so that we can save Yitzhaq Rabin, as if what is required is to find a solution to Rabin's problem instead of attaining regional peace. Saving Rabin is not our job."

He continued: "Furthermore, the situation in Israel is not as they portray it. The Israeli Labor Party does not have big problems while its opponent, the Likud bloc, is suffering from divisions. Moreover, Yitzhaq Rabin came to power on the basis of his peace program. The Israeli public voted for him because he was going to lead it to peace. They are a nation tired of their past, of the instability, insecurity, and economic problems."

Khaddam explained: As far as we are concerned, in terms of strategy there is no difference between the Likud and the Labor Party. He asked: Has the world forgotten that it was the Labor Party that founded Israel, staged all the wars against the Arabs, and fought the battles of settlement? He noted: Meanwhile, the Likud took power only once—under Menachem Begin— signed the Camp David Accord, and withdrew from Sinai. This does not mean that the Likud is better than the Labor Party. So let them deny this.

He said: We are not playing the Israeli elections card. We do not agree to link our cause with an election issue, because right is on our side. If we get involved in the elections, we will be casting doubt on our rights. As I said before, the Labor Party does not differ from the Likud on fundamental issues.

Khaddam was asked if the withdrawal question has been settled unofficially so that discussion of security arrangements will continue. He replied: As for us, what is required is clear and direct, it is a return to the 4 June line. Israel talks about international lines drawn under French mandate by which some territory was taken from Syria. Our border extended to the middle of Lake Tiberias. If Yasir 'Arafat says these territories and villages are Palestinian, he means they should be taken by Israel not Syria; this is very regrettable. We told the Americans and Israelis that an agreement on a lasting and just peace is what would preserve the rights, that anything less would bring no stability to the region and we would not accept it under any circumstances.

Khaddam was asked what Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, will bring to the region that is new. He answered: We are waiting for him but do not make predictions or prior assumptions before he arrives.

Khaddam was asked if there are signs of imminent peace, bearing in mind that some people expect no progress before 1997. He replied: As far as we are concerned, the solution is easy. Let Israel agree to the implementation of the international resolutions, withdraw, and repair the consequences of aggression; then we will conclude a peace agreement in 10 days. As was evident recently, the U.S. and Israeli sides have not shown any desire to postpone the solution until after 1997. In any case, it is up to them.

Khaddam was also asked if raising the level of negotiations by sending a prominent figure like General Hikmat al-Shihabi was successful. He answered: A goal could be achieved either through peace or war. Now we are living in a peacetime situation. Every stage of the negotiations has its own character. During the first stage, negotiations were held through delegations resulting from the Madrid conference; then we continued through the stage of ambassadors. The nature of an agreement on "the concepts" of security arrangements require this level of military officials.

Commenting on the outcome and timing of his recent visit to Iran, He said: It was a routine visit within the framework of the higher committee, which is supposed to convene every six months. He added: Through its president, Rafsanjani, the Iranian leadership announced its emphasis on the firmness of the relationship between the two countries, which has not been affected by developments. They showed great understanding of the steps we are now undertaking.

Asked what he thinks of the suggestion that is interpreted by some people as meaning that Syria will play a role in "muzzling Iran," Khaddam said: "We have never been the tool of any foreign country—not formerly in war and not in peace now. We will not be a tool to implement foreign policies. Iran is a friend, and our relations with it are more than good. Iran is not doing anything unusual. The Iranians want to be build a state and a system without foreign intervention. They want to build an Islamic state without pressure from anyone but also without harming anyone."

He added: "We do not accept attacks on Iran. When the nuclear weapons issue was raised, we asked the Americans: Why only Iran? Why don't you ask Israel? You know that the International Atomic Energy Agency is monitoring Iran. It is known that it does not have the capability to produce nuclear weapons. It does not possess nuclear weapons, while Israel has a nuclear arsenal. Why are you pursuing this policy? Why is it all right for India to have nuclear weapons, but not Pakistan? This is illogical and unjustifiable."

Khaddam explained: "Syria has never accepted pressure from anyone, not even from a close friend. Formerly we had very close relations with the Soviet Union but did not implement all of Moscow's wishes. When the Syrian Army entered Lebanon, the Soviet Union had an opposing view on the matter. They opposed our entry into Lebanon and sent Prime Minister Aleksey Kosygin. He arrived at Damascus Airport as Syrian forces were already advancing into Lebanon."

Khaddam was asked about the Hizballah issue and if his talks in Iran had touched on this matter. He was also asked, whether it is true that Damascus has summoned Hizballah leaders for a meeting to agree on a new policy in light of the political settlement. Khaddam answered: "First of all, we did not discuss the Hizballah issue in Tehran. Secondly, I did not summon anyone for talks. Whatever Hizballah does in south Lebanon is a duty sanctioned by international law. No one on the face of the earth can ask Hizballah, or any resistance force facing an occupation army anywhere in the world, to stop its resistance operations. We do not do things like that. We will never do so, because if we ask Hizballah to do this, we will be sanctioning the occupation. This is not our position."

He continued: "When the Americans telephoned to ask about the situation in south Lebanon, we told them that it was Israel who was bombarding villages and killing children and women. We said that halting such actions would solve the problem. We also said that if Israel withdraws from the south, Hizballah will not follow it to Haifa. Test Hizballah and withdraw from the south. You will discover the answer."

Khaddam described Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks about Lahd's militia [South Lebanese Army] as "fishing for a response." He added: "Rabin then hurriedly sent his chief of staff to reassure this militia. However, this does not change the facts, because the situation is linked to the existing occupation and not to anything else."

Commentary Rejects Early Warning Stations

JN1707165395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 17 Jul 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: The Israelis admit from time to time that there can be no peace with Syria while keeping the Golan and that peace with Syria requires, in their own terms, important concessions on the ground, meaning withdrawal from the Golan. They also admit from time to time that peace cannot be achieved in the region and that other peace agreements will not last without achieving peace with Syria. While they are aware of the Syrian stand, which rejects bargaining over a single inch of land, the Israelis did not take long before they reversed facts and started talking about early-warning stations, which they want to set up on Syrian territories under the pretext of security and anticipation of a sudden Syrian attack, as they put it.

There is a full conviction that Syria will not accept an infringement of national sovereignty, refuses to abandon a single inch of the land, and clings to the 4 June 1967 borders — which are the first principles that originally allowed for the convening of the Madrid conference. As long as this conviction has become fully acceptable, then how could the Israelis consider Syria responsible for halting the talks because it refuses to allow provocation stations, if not to say espionage stations, on its territories? How can we all move forward, supported by the world, which is watching our movement toward a just and comprehensive peace — the basis of the future of the region and the world — while at the same time we are planting mines and explosives along the road of future peace and are threatening the region and the world with the worst consequences?

The wicked hint of such a peace, which keeps early-warning stations on Syrian territories, means that this peace will have the factors that will make it collapse at the very first test. If Israel's peace intentions were actually true and serious, then modern technological methods of monitoring in the fields of military surveillance have beaten such methods a long time ago, as admitted by the entire world, including the U.S. Administration.

Hence, it is not a matter of warning stations, resuming meetings between military experts, or credibility of anyone on the scale, inasmuch as it is a deliberate obstacle on Israel's part and planting of obstacles along the road to peace. When did all this happen? This happened when some positive signs began to appear in the horizon which must be directly followed by a discussion of full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 borders. Israel did not agree on this yet.

Hence, the dimensions of the Israeli maneuver and of the argumentative disputes — which bring efforts back to square one whenever signs of agreement appear in the horizon — are demonstrated in a dialectical progression [mutawaliyah jadaliyah], which is characterized by liquefaction and waste of time more than seriousness, firmness, and responsibility. This is represented by a naive wagering on their domestic situation rather than wagering seriously on the situation in the region, and on the present situation and the future of peace in it.

There is nothing easier for the Israelis than to hold others responsible for the consequences of what happened and is happening while they are planning for this in secret and in public. Hundreds of hours of dialogue and wranglings, starting with the Madrid conference and the Washington talks, until now, have proved that Israel and its negotiators are deliberately dividing basic issues into branches, and then branching them again so that an understanding of constants is lost, the chain of priorities breaks up, and the gaps, which Israel worked on opening and penetrating on the backdrop of what it achieved for itself on other tracks, become wider.

We repeat for the 1000th time that peace is a clear equation — land and dignity. There can be no land without dignity and there can be no dignity without land. From here, everything will seem possible or else it is the impossible itself.

Afghanistan

Official on Value of Iranian Ties, Islamic World

*LD1607101995 Tehran IRNA in English
0851 GMT 16 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, July 16, IRNA — Leader of Hezb- e Ettehad-e Eslami (Islamic Unity) of Afghanistan Abdol Rasul Sayyaf in a meeting with Iranian charge d'affaires to Kabul Mohammad Reza Forqani on Saturday [15 July] said that having relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran at a desirable level is both to the benefit of Afghanistan and the whole Islamic world.

He said Afghans were proud of having good relations with the Muslim neighboring Iran given that the two countries shared a common language and culture.

Sayyaf termed the propaganda by the enemies of Islam as the root cause for some of the problems and difficulties facing Muslims, adding that Muslims should get united and close rank to thwart conspiracies of the enemies.

He lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran for having supported Afghan mujahedin during their 14 year jihad against the occupiers.

The Iranian diplomat also underlined the need for unity and fraternity among the world Muslims and said Iran has spared no effort to materialize such an objective.

Unity of opinion is the best means to thwart plots hatched by global arrogance and enemies of Islam, he added.

Government, Taleban Exchange More POW's

*LD1507220195 Tehran IRNA in English
1809 GMT 15 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Another 485 POWs were exchanged between Afghan president, Borhanoddin Rabbani's government and the Taleban militia in Farah, Helmand and Nimruz Provinces in southeast Afghanistan.

So far a total of 221 POWs have been released by the Rabbani government and another 358 by the Talebans. Efforts are underway to exchange the rest of the POWs, Afghan presidential spokesman, 'Abdol-'Aziz Morad, said on Saturday [15 July].

Without mentioning the number of remaining POWs, he said the Talebans attaches more importance to the time table of POWs's release than other agreements reached between the two sides.

Morad described the situation at the fronts as calm and said that except for sporadic clashes and limited exchange of fire between the forces of the two sides in different areas, so far no important engagement has taken place.

Morad termed the situation in northern Afghanistan as restive and said clashes between government forces and the national alliance led by General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam are continuing in four states.

The Afghan Government and the Taleban militia reached an agrreement June 9 over holding direct talks on release of all POWs, reopening of roads leading to Kabul and establishment of a ten-day cease fire. But so far the direct talks have been delayed with the POWs issue is still largely unsettled.

India

Kidnapped Foreign Tourists Still Being Held

Government Appeals to 'Militants'

*BK1707160795 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir government has again appealed to the abductors of five foreign tourists to release them unharmed. A government spokesman said in Srinagar this evening that the militants should see reason and release the innocent tourists without further delay. Our Srinagar correspondent adds that reports of contacts between official agencies and the kidnappers have not been confirmed.

The union home secretary, Mr. K. Padmanavaiah, today met the German and Norwegian ambassadors and deputy chief of missions of the United Kingdom and the United States in New Delhi. According to official sources, during the meeting Mr. Padmanavaiah apprised them of the efforts being made by Indian authorities to secure the release of their nationals.

Officials Trying To Contact Abductors

*BK1807054295 Hong Kong AFP in English
0530 GMT 18 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, July 18 (AFP) — Indian officials were desperately seeking to establish contact on Tuesday [18 July] with a Muslim separatist group which abducted five Western tourists in Kashmir and had threatened to kill them "anytime."

A senior police official in this Kashmir summer capital told AFP that there had not been any contact with the kidnappers since a deadline set by the group holding the five Westerners expired Monday evening.

"Nobody from the militant side is coming forward," said Kashmir police chief Mohinder Nath Sabharwal. "As far as the police are concerned no one has contacted us."

Al-Faran, the separatist group holding the two Britons, an American,a Norwegian and a German, threatened to kill the hostages if the Indian authorities failed to release 21 imprisoned Muslim guerrillas by Monday evening.

The previously unknown group, in a statement delivered to news agencies here Monday, refused to extend the deadline and reiterated its threat to kill the hostages.

"There will be no extension of the deadline," the Urdu-language statement said. "The hostages may be killed at any time."

Diplomats from the British, German, Norwegian and US embassies were meeting with Kashmiri Muslim leaders here meanwhile in a bid to secure the release of their nationals, police said.

Forces Said Searching for Hostages

BK1807091395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, the government has intensified efforts to secure the release of five abducted foreign tourists. The deadline set by the militants expired yesterday evening and there has been no new developments since then. Radio Kashmir is repeatedly broadcasting the government's appeal to the kidnappers to release the tourists immediately and unharmed.

Photographs of the kidnapped foreigners sent by the militants to some media persons two days ago indicate that they have been taken to some high altitude area. Security forces are carrying out intensive combing operations in the Pahalgam region. They are also taking the help of private individuals.

Government 'Confident' of Release

BK1807120395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, July 18 (AFP) — The Indian government was confident Tuesday [18 July] of securing the release of five Western tourists held by Moslem separatists in Kashmir despite a renewed threat by the militants to kill the hostages.

"All efforts are being made to get the hostages released," said I. Ramamohan Rao, the New Delhi-based information advisor to the government of Kashmir. "We are hoping for a breakthrough."

He said "indirect contact" had been established with the kidnappers and it appeared they have not carried out a threat made Monday evening to kill their captives.

Al-Faran, the previously unknown separatist group holding the two Britons, American, German and Norwegian, had set Monday evening as the deadline for the Indian authorities to release 21 top Muslim guerrillas from prison.

After the Indian government failed to comply with the demand, Al- Faran, in a statement issued to news agencies in this Kashmir summer capital, warned that the hostages were in danger of being killed "at any time."

"There will be no extension of the deadline," said the Urdu- language statement from Al-Faran, or Jungle Warriors. "The hostages may be killed at any time."

Rao would not elaborate on what kind of "breakthrough" the authorities were expecting but said they were confident the kidnappers would realize that the abduction of Western tourists would "give their organization a bad name."

"The message is sinking in to the abductors that what they have done has been criticized by other militant groups, by Amnesty International, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, by the whole world," he said.

Retired Lieutenant General D.D. Saklani, who is heading the government's negotiating team, presided over a high-level meeting here Tuesday to discuss the latest developments in the hostage crisis, officials said.

The officials declined to reveal details of the discussions but a source close to the state government said the authorities may consider a one-to-one swap of militants on the kidnappers' list of 21 for the Western hostages.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped by Al-Faran guerrillas on July 4 while hiking near the Kashmir town of Pahalgam, 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here.

German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans Christian Ostro were seized separately in the same area on July 8.

The statement released by Al-Faran late Monday was accompanied by an audio cassette containing appeals from the captives.

Hutchings, a 42-year-old psychiatrist, addressed his message to his wife, Jane Schelly, who is in Srinagar along with the wives of Wells, Mangan and Hasert.

"I am Don Hutchings of the United States of America. I am OK though we have been walking day and night over the mountains," he said. "I am tired. The mujahedeen (militants) have been OK to me.

"Jane, I want you to know that I am OK but I do not know when I will die," he continued. "Maybe today or tomorrow. Maybe this is my last communication. I appeal to the Indian government and the American government for help."

Diplomats from the American, British, German and Norwegian embassies are in Srinagar to try to secure the release of their nationals and they met Tuesday with Kashmiri Muslim leaders and Indian officials, police said.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when Muslim militants stepped up their secessionist campaign.

Editorial Denounces U.S. 'Interference' in Defense

BK1707154495 Delhi DAINIK JAGRAN in Hindi 14 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "India's Defense Preparations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nobody would disagree with the demand by Atal Behari Vajpayee, a prominent Bharatiya Janata Party leader, that India give impetus to manufacturing and deploying its "Prithvi" missile and rapidly advancing its "Agni" missile development program following Pakistan's receipt of M-11 missiles from China. Notwithstanding the M-11's inability to hit targets with unerring precision, it does have a very long range and could easily carry nuclear warheads. It appears that having received the "M-11" missile, Pakistan has left India behind in the missile race. India's "Prithvi" missile has a range of just 250 km and has yet to be deployed. As far as the "Agni" missile is concerned, its range is quite long at 1,500-2,500 km. Unfortunately, its test flights have been halted for the moment. What is more unfortunate is that these tests were stopped under U.S. pressure. If India had not wilted under U.S. pressure, Indian defense experts would not be worried by Pakistan's receipt of the "M-11" missiles.

Certainly, India's wilting under U.S. pressure in matters of defense preparedness — and hence national security — is not only shameful but may prove suicidal. The Indian Government blundered by halting the development and eventual deployment of these missiles. The frustration and despair afflicting the dedicated Indian scientists involved in these programs is quite natural. Still, a better course for the Indian Government would be to realize its mistake and mince no words in categorically telling the United States that it has no right to intervene in India's defense preparations. The United States has not received a contract, as it were, to care for the security of the South Asian region or stop the arms race in the region! As a matter of fact, it is big and powerful countries like the United States that generated this arms race for their own selfish interests. They have deliberately created situations that might prove conducive to an arms race. As far as India's reaction to Pakistan's receipt of the Chinese missiles is concerned, it was very innocuous and vacillating. Still, if India cannot lodge a protest with China in clear words, this is its sheer misfortune. Even if the Indian Government is not willing to say anything to China or the United States, it must at least firmly resolve that, come what may, it will not allow any interference by any foreign country in matters related to its defense preparations.

Minister Comments on Countering Pakistani Weapons

BK1707165395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has declared that it will have no option but to make arrangements to meet its security needs to match acquisition of M-11 missile and other military hardware by Pakistan. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, told newsmen on his return after a week-long tour of Germany, Austria and Portugal, that M-11 missiles will enhance the striking power of Islamabad. He said India has conveyed its serious concern to both China and the United States as Washington is also making moves to resume arms sales to Pakistan.

Mr. Mukherjee said that he has conveyed to German leaders to make all-out efforts to prevent clandestine transaction of nuclear materials through its territory because of the arrest of a Pakistani national there for smuggling nuclear materials. He clarified that there was no external pressure on India to sign the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] or any conditions imposed for transfer of dual technology to India. He said China and France have conducted nuclear tests even after indefinite extension of NPT. This has only strengthened India's position about the inadequacy of the NPT in its present form. The treaty is discriminatory and there is a need for a comprehensive treaty universally applying on all.

The external affairs minister described as a positive development the condemnation by the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] of kidnapping of foreign tourists by militants in Kashmir. He said that during bilateral talks, the OIC countries appreciated India's stand that Pakistan is abetting terrorism in Kashmir.

Pakistan Said 'Interfering' With Kashmir Elections

BK1607131895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The minister of state for internal security, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, says India is determined to frustrate the attempts of Pakistan to stall the election process in Kashmir. He was addressing a gathering of National Students Union of India in Bangalore. He reiterated the Center's resolve to begin the democratic process in the valley.

Referring to Pakistan's allegations of human rights violations, Mr. Pilot said international human rights organizations, which visited the Kashmir valley, found these allegations to be baseless. The minister said Pakistan's attempt to create strife in the country will not succeed as India's security forces are very alert. Mr. Pilot charged Pakistan with interfering in the internal affairs of India.

Army To Phase Out Main Tank, Prefers Russian T-72

BK1707151795 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 15 Jul 95 p 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi July 14 — India will not have a main battle tank by the turn of the century, as Army headquarters and the Defence Research and Development Organisation [DRDO] have locked horns over upgradation of indigenous T-72 tanks.

The Army headquarters favours the Russian T-72s tank as the replacement for T-72MI models assembled at Avadi, near Madras, while the DRDO is keen to use indigenously-developed reactive armour on T- 72MI tanks.

Of the three upgrades necessary for a main battle tank, namely , more protection, a good tank fire control system and night fighting capability, the Army is of the opinion that the T-72s tank provides the best solution.

Fitted with a 840-horsepower engine, the T-72s tank can accommodate three tone of additional armour on the turret for protection.

Unlike T-72MI tanks fitted with 786-horsepower engines, T-72s version can fire Russian SS-B-119B missiles with a range of 4 kms (each T-72s tank carries 52 rounds of ammunition and four missiles). T-72s tanks were successfully tested in the country in 1993 and the Russians are willing to transfer its technology.

The Army says that with a few modifications, the existing production line at Avadi can be converted to manufacture T-72s tanks.

The DRDO is averse to accepting the T-72s option for two reasons: One; it fears that acceptance of T-72s tank will slow the induction of Arjun tank into the Army. Two; as a mover towards self- sufficiency, it has convinced the government that indigenously manufactured reactive armour should be used on T-72MI tanks.

A general from the directorate of quality assurance told THE ASIAN AGE that the weight of the T-72MI tank after putting reactive armour (which is still untested) will increase from 41 tons to 50 tons. The increase in weight will require a new engine of 1,000 horsepower, and the need to ensure compatibility between the new power pack and the running gears upto the driving sprocket.

"The defence ministry, which is already struggling for an acceptable engine for Arjun and Vijayanta tanks, will have another problem at hand with the T-72s," the general said.

The exercise will result in an ironic situation where India with a total of 2,570 tanks will not have a main battle tank. There are 13 regiments of T-55 tanks, 14 regiments of Vijayantas (the only good thing about these tanks is its accurate and hard-hitting gun) and 30 regiments of the original T-72 tanks, which came from the erstwhile Soviet Union, and T-72MI which are assembled at Avadi.

While no one disputes the importance of reactive armour for protection of tanks in a battlefield strewn with anti-tank guided missiles, a balance has to be struck between the ideal and a good solution. The Army is of the opinion that once indigenous Nag missiles with a double-detonating warhead (the first warhead is meant to destroy reactive armour and the second to produce a jet for penetration) enter service, the T-72s can become the main battle tank. As the problem of added protection will get resolved, attention can then be given to procurement of a tank fire control system and night-fighting capability for T-72s tanks. As indigenously-manufactured thermal imagers for night vision are still unacceptable to the users, Army headquarters has suggested that a few regiments (the offensive formations) be equipped with upgraded T-72 tanks be provided with imported thermal imagers, and the remaining tank fleet may continue with passive night vision devices. With the DRDO insisting that the thermal imagers manufactured by the Defence Research and Development Laboratory in DehraDun be accepted by the Army, the stage is set for yet another confrontation between the two. The ultimate sufferer will be the armoured crops.

Home Minister Leaves for Visit to China

BK1507104695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, is on his way to China on a week-long visit. The visit aims at further strengthening bilateral cooperation in combating organized crimes, drugs and narcotics trafficking, and theft of antique properties. During the visit, Mr. Chavan will have discussions with the Chinese minister for public security, Mr. Qiao Shi Xhu. He will also call on the president and the prime minister of China and other top leaders. Apart from Beijing, the home minister will visit Shanghai, Sheng Xian, and Guangxhao.

Iran

Croatian Official Continues Official Visit

Discusses 'Crisis' With Rafsanjani

LD1707190995 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 17, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Monday [17 July] the independent state of Bosnia and the Islamic identity of Bosnian nation cannot be eliminated by aggression and force.

In a meeting with the visiting Croatian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Mate Granic, the president said the indifference of the United Nations towards the Bosnian crisis will cause world states to lose confidence in the UN.

The deadly silence of the United Nations, NATO and certain Western countries towards the atrocities of the Serbs against the Bosnian people has no logic for the Islamic states at all, President Rafsanjani stated. The Iranian president said perhaps they justify their negligence for not having material interest in the region, but, it is far from the prestige of the international community and the big Western powers not to display at least a humanitarian gesture.

Granic appreciated Iran's humanitarian assistance to the oppressed people in the Balkans and said the Serb aggressors continue their intervention in the region in the light of the indifference of the world organizations and the states in the region. At present a large part of Bosnian territory and 17 percent of Croatian lands are under occupation of Serb forces, Granic said.

Granic emphasized the need for solidarity between the Muslims and the Croats to confront the Serb aggressors and said delegations from Bosnia and Croatia will hold negotiations in this regard.

Granic arrived in Tehran on Sunday.

Makes Statement Upon Departure

LD1807115695 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic, who had travelled to Tehran at the head of a senior political delegation, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off officially by our country's deputy foreign minister.

According to the Central News Unit, before leaving Tehran, Granic described the outcome of his negotiations with Iranian officials as positive, saying: In my meetings with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the expansion of bilateral relations in the political and economic spheres as well as the latest situation in Bosnia and the Balkans were discussed.

The Croatian foreign minister expressed his displeasure over the weak response of the international community and its double standards in the face of the Serbs' aggression and said: In a meeting toward the end of next week between Bosnian and Croatian officials, we shall discuss ways of forming a new alliance between the two republics, as well as ways to confront the Serbs' aggression. These projects have been welcomed by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Officials, Press Comment on Serbian Aggression

Prayer Leader Urges Muslim Unity

LD1407153795 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Qom, Central Province, July 14, IRNA — Friday prayers leader of Qom Ayatollah Javadi-Amoli here Friday [14 July] severely condemned the anti-human crimes by the Serbs in the Bosnian city of Srebrenica.

Referring to the recent Serbs' attacks on Srebrenica, he criticized the international community for keeping silent in the face of the tyranny and crimes against the defenseless Bosnian people.

The senior alim, emphasizing the solidarity of the Muslim nations, called for the further unity of the Muslims against the oppressors.

Islamic Council Condemns Agression

LD1507162795 Tehran IRNA in English 1557 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — The Islamic Propagation Coordination Council in a statement issued here Saturday [15 July] condemned the recent massacre of Bosnian Muslims in Srebrenica by the Serb aggressors and tagged as "regretful" the international community's silence towards the crime.

The statement said "the merciless massacre of Bosnian Muslims was one of the goals of the enemies of religion and humanity, which was carried out by the criminal Serbs with the tacit silence and support of the international community and claimants of human rights."

It called for immmediate lifting of the sanctions imposed on Bosnia-Herzegovinan Muslims and for stopping the genocide of the oppressed and defenseless in Bosnia.

The statement invited Muslims to adopt a unified policy towards such crimes.

UN Envoy Condemns Action, UN Efforts

LD1507214895 Tehran IRNA in English 2037 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations HQ. (New York), July 15, IRNA — Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Kamal Kharrazi in an interview with IRNA on Saturday [15 July] condemned the occupation of the Bosnian city of Srebrenica and said international behaviour was responsible for it.

The Serbs occupied Srebrenica last week and engaged in the ethnic cleansing of Muslims.

He said if the UN Security Council had not allowed the Serbs to invade Bosnia the situation would not be as it was today.

Kharrazi feared that as aggression against Muslims in Bosnia continues the Muslims of that republic would be wiped out from the political scene of Europe.

He said the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina has reached a climax at which the international community and the United States and Europe see themselves in a political deadlock.

He said while the UN Security Council cannot solve the problem it is preventing Iran and other Muslim nations from contributing to the UN peacekeeping forces (UNPROFOR) and at the same time by upholding sanctions against Bosnia it is preventing the Bosnian Muslims from defending themselves against aggression.

Kharrazi said the UN Security Council should not have imposed sanctions on Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said the Security Council must reverse its past policies and allow Muslims to defend themselves.

He said the crisis in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a dark spot in the history of the United Nations because the Security Council being under the influence of certain powers, acted in a manner allowing the Serbs to decimate the Muslim people of Bosnia, pushing others out of their homes and doing other violations against them.

According to Kharrazi the U.N. threats to bring to trial those people responsible for war crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina was an empty threat. He said if the United Nations was really concerned about the matter it would have adopted a firm stand towards the criminals, and would have prevented them from doing what they did.

He said the UN Security Council instead of bringing Serbian war criminals to trial sat with them at the negotiation table and even offered them concessions. He said the threats of bringing them to trial would never be carried out.

Kharrazi said the Serbs now fully well that the threats of the West are empty, and there is no determination or will in the West to support Muslims or to prevent the onslaught of Serbs.

He said Iran was to contribute to efforts for solving the crisis. He said the UN Security Council should lift the present ban against Bosnians, and according to the UN Charter the Bosnian Government must be able to defend itself against aggressors.

Daily: If Srebrenica Had Oil Wells?

LD1507211895 Tehran IRNA in English 2029 GMT 15 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA — Last week's Serbian attack on Muslim-populated Srebrenica and genocide of the inhabitants of the city, is undoubtedly one of the major international developments in the recent days, a morning daily wrote Saturday [15 July].

Many people around the world are wondering as to why the United Nations and other international bodies have remained silent towards such crimes, the Persian-language SALAM added.

While Serbian forces after occupying the so-called safe haven of Srebrenica are trying to storm other places in aggressed Bosnia-Herzegovina, the U.N. and big powers have virtually turned a blind eye to the resulting horrors and are content to play with words, it stressed.

It stated the U.N. officials not only do not admit their fault against the Serbian aggression but are also preventing other states as well as international and regional organizations including Islamic countries and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) from adopting measures against the the Serbian aggressions.

By continuing to subject Bosnia-Herzegovina to an arms embargo, international organizations have also prevented the Bosnian Government and the Muslim people from defending their home and hearth, the paper stressed.

It asked: "If Srebrenica had oil wells, would the United Nations and Western powers remain silent towards it?

"Did not the same decision-makers at the Security Council assemble armies and military technology in the Persian Gulf in a matter of a few days under the pretext of defending oil wells?"

If the Persian Gulf lay thousands of kilometers away from Western military bases, Bosnia lies in the vicinity of NATO bases in Italy and Germany, said SALAM, questioning how such silence towards the genocide of a Muslim nation can be acceptable.

The so-called humanitarian organizations such as the International Red Cross Committee and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) under the pretext of dispatching medicines and foodstuffs to the safe havens have in fact facilitated the second phase of the Serbian attack, that is, the ethnic cleansing of Muslims from the occupied area.

Tajikistan's President Pays Official Visit

Arrives With 'Message of Friendship'

LD1607151195 Tehran IRNA in English
1455 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 16, IRNA — Tajikistan's President Emomali Rakhmanov arrived here Sunday [16 July] heading a high- ranking politico-economic delegation for a three-day official visit and was welcomed by his Iranian counterpart Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Upon his arrival Rakhmanov told Iranian and foreign reporters that he carried the Tajik people's message of friendship to the Iranian people.

He said that Iran was a "friendly and brotherly" country to the Tajik nation and government and called the presence in Tehran of the Tajik delegation a "turning point" in the history of Tehran-Dushanbe relations.

President Rafsanjani for his part said Tajikistan was one of the "important" countries that the Iranian nation was interested in. The commonalities between the two countries, especially in the area of Persian language, required further closeness between them, he said.

He regretted that Irano-Tajik relations had not developed well in the economic, cultural and political fields due to the republic's domestic problems.

He added that expansion of Tehran-Dushanbe relations was something called for by the two countries' nations and governments.

The president said Iran would increase its efforts to make Tajikistan united, cohesive and coordinated.

He expressed hope that bilateral relations would further expand in all areas following the visit to Tehran of Rakhmanov.

Tajikistan has been turned into the scene of clashes between the government on the one hand and the national and Islamic coalition forces on the other since 1992.

The Islamic republic of Iran has maintained warm relations with both the government and opposition wings and benefited from this stance in restoring peace to the republic.

Tehran attaches high significance to restoration of peace and reconstruction in the republic and Rakhmanov's current visit could be a step in the same direction.

Rakhmanov is accompanied by deputy prime minister, ministers of foreign affairs, labor and social affairs, culture and press and foreign economic relations as well as a number of other Tajik officials.

Discusses Cooperation With Rafsanjani

LD1607203295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1930 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During their first round of talks on Sunday [16 July] evening, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan discussed expansion of cooperation in the cultural, political, and economic fields. They also discussed the establishment of flights between Tehran and Dushanbe and cooperation at regional and international levels.

According to a report of the Central News Unit, during this round of talks Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani first thanked the president of Tajikistan for visiting Iran. He said: I hope the outcome of this visit will be registered as a turning point in the two countries' relations.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said when referring to the point that the Islamic Republic of Iran was very pleased when Tajikistan gained its independence: Iran was the first country to recognize this independence; and this proves the degree of importance that the Islamic Republic of Iran attaches to the strengthening of its ties with Tajikistan.

Referring to the common religion, the Persian language, and the history of Iran, Afghanistan, and Tajikistan, the president added: In the wake of developments in the eastern bloc, it was expected that these three countries would establish close tripartite cooperation. He went on: The people of Iran were saddened by the internal dispute in Tajikistan; and now the Islamic Republic of Iran is willing to assist Tajikistan to fully resolve the dispute and to implement reconstruction plans in that country.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Internal conflict in Tajikistan would not be in the interest of any side; and we hope that unity and solidarity will once again rule over all strata of the Tajikistan people. The president also expressed the hope that Iran and Tajikistan will cooperate to restore peace and security in Afghanistan.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani concluded his remarks by saying that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a good friend and assistant of the regional countries; and finding ways to expand ties between Iran and Tajikistan in every field of mutual interest can be considered as one of the important objectives of this visit.

Mr. Emomali Rakhmanov expressed delight for coming to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Iran and Tajikistan have plenty of opportunities to expand ties and bilateral cooperation; and I hope that during this visit by myself and my accompanying delegation to Iran, important agreements will be signed to expand ties in various fields.

The president of Tajikistan enumerated the two countries' potential for cooperation in irrigation projects, oil exploration and mining, pharmaceutical industries, agriculture, and in technical and industrial fields. He said: The two countries' shared religion, culture, language, and history provide a highly suitable backing for realizing cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan.

Addresses Ties, Refugee Repatriation

*NC1807082795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 18 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov, who has come to Tehran, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent. Expressing gratitude for the Islamic Republic's efforts to reestablish peace and stability in Tajikistan, he said: One cannot imagine Tajikistan's future without cooperation with Iran. The report states that referring to the common cultural and religious ties between Iran and Tajikistan, he described his visit to Tehran as an effective step toward the further consolidation of the two countries' relations.

Referring to the Islamic Republic's efforts for a political solution to the Tajikistan problem, the Tajik president stressed: The Tajik crisis can be solved only through talks.

On the repatriation of Tajik refugees, he said that so far, 86,000 Tajik refugees have returned, and that the Tajik Government is striving for the repatriation of the rest of the refugees.

Attends Opening of Tajik Embassy

*LD1807083295 Tehran IRNA in English
0703 GMT 18 Jul 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 18, IRNA — The embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan was opened here Tuesday [18 July] morning in a special ceremony which was attended by Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov, currently here on an official visit.

Foreign ministers of Iran and Tajikistan as well as a group of senior officials from the two countries were also present.

Speaking at the ceremony, President Rakhmanov said that opening of the Tajik Embassy in Tehran would pave the way for futher expansion of Tehran-Dushanbe cooperation.

Stressing that today would always be remembered as an "unforgettable" day in the history of Tehran-Dushanbe relations promising a brighter prospect, the Tajik president remarked that from the very begining of Iran-Tajikistan relations since four years ago, extensive efforts have been made to upgrade bilateral ties.

The president also lauded the Islamic republic for being among the first countries which recognized the independence of Tajikistan aftter the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

Another speaker of the ceremony, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said Iran and Tajikistan were on the threshold of establishing all-out friendly relations.

He added that the two nations were willing to take more strides towards further expansion of bilateral relations.

Holds Talks Again With Rafsanjani

*LD1807124895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 18 Jul 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] On the third day of the official visit of Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov to Iran, the second round of talks between the presidents of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Tajikistan were held at the office of the presidency today.

At this round of talks, the Tajik president began by expressing gratitude for the Islamic Republic of Iran's warm hospitality and said: The large volume of agreements reached between the two countries during the short visit made by me and my accompanying delegation to Iran is an indication of the two countries' political will to expand cooperation and to make up for past lost opportunities.

Mr. Rakhmanov described his trip to Iran as a new impetus in relations between the two countries and, noting the common features shared by the people of Iran and Tajikistan in terms of religion, language, and culture, he said: In the course of my current visit, I found the Iranian people to be enthusiastic and sincere and I am certain that the two countries' people wish to see the establishment of cooperation and its expansion in the future.

The president of Tajikistan stressed the need for making the two countries' private sectors more active in relation to bilateral economic matters, adding: In view of the interest the people of Tajikistan have in Iranian industries and goods, Tajikistan wishes to see the establishment of permanent Iranian industrial exhibitions in Tajikistan and shops supplying Iranian goods in that country.

At the meeting, Mr. Rakhmanov invited Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani to visit Tajikistan.

According to the Central News Unit, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, for his part, said in this round of talks: The commencement of talks between the two countries and the volume of the agreements reached are very good, and strong foundations have been laid in Tehran for relations between Iran and Tajikistan. He expressed the hope that by following up and implementing the agreements, we would see the greatest possible consolidation of cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan in all areas of mutual interest.

The meeting continued with the Iranian and Tajik heads of the five committees on politics, agriculture, economics, commerce, culture, labor, and social affairs briefing the presidents about the outcome of their talks and the bilateral agreements reached.

Signs 12 Agreements; Statement Issued

LD1807105095 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 18 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the end of the second round of talks between Iran and Tajikistan, 12 agreements were signed by the presidents and officials of the two countries.

[Unidentified correspondent] According to the agreements signed by the presidents and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan, the two countries have agreed to expand cooperation in the political, economic, cultural, and social fields.

The most important agreements signed between the presidents and officials of the two countries in Tehran are on cooperation in the implementation of infrastructural projects in industry, agriculture, animal husbandry, and fishing; joint investments; the exchange of goods and trade services; transport; the granting of a line of credit worth $10 million by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the bank of foreign economic trade of Tajikistan in order to increase exports and imports; the elimination of the need for political and diplomatic visas; radio and television, scientific, cultural, training, and arts cooperation; the expansion of the Persian language; tourism; architecture; sports; handicraft; cooperation in providing manpower and employment services; the implementation of employment projects and the establishment exhibitions on self-employment; and the establishment of regular flights between Tehran, Dushanbe, and holy Mashhad.

A joint statement was issued following the official visit of Tajik President Imomali Rahmonov to Tehran. The statement reiterates the deep language, cultural, and religious roots linking the two countries and stresses friendship and understanding; the expansion of bilateral ties based on United Nations and recognized international principles; and calls for a peaceful solution to the Tajik crisis.

Elsewhere, the joint Iran-Tajikistan statement praises the Islamic Republic of Iran's constructive role in the region. The two countries have called for more active participation in the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, and the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Officials, Press View French Oil Company Contract

Velayati Addresses Ties, Agreement

LD1407205695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 14 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, today took part in a ceremony in Tehran marking the French national day.

He congratulated the French ambassador and that country's officials on that occasion and said: The Islamic

Republic of Iran considers its relations with the republic of France as permanent and long-term. He added: The existing ties demand that the two countries focus their efforts in that direction.

The foreign affairs minister described the recent signing of an oil agreement between Iran's Oil Ministry and the French company Total as a long step towards the expansion of bilateral ties and expressed the hope that such cooperation would also expand in other fields.

The French ambassador said that France has taken positive steps toward establishing close contacts between Iran and Europe during its rotational chairmanship of the European Union. He said that his country would continue such efforts in the future. He also described such efforts as effective and positive for enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries and said that the signing of the recent oil agreement was a new chapter in consolidating and expanding of the two countries' relations.

Minister Details Agreement

LD1607161495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 16 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Just as you heard in previous news bulletins, a contract to develop the Siri oil fields has been signed between the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] and the French company Total on the basis of which operations to develop the oil fields of this region will start immediately after the signing of the contract. Our country's oil minister [Gholam Reza Aqazadeh- Kho'i] spoke to our reporter giving more details about this oil contract. Please listen to his remarks.

[Begin Aqazadeh-Kho'i recording] The final agreement on developing Siri's oil reserves with the Total company has been signed. It was, of course, within the same framework as the previous agreement in all its dimensions. The features of this project can be described in the following way:

This reserve will produce 120,000 barrels of oil, and its initial production will start in three years' time. The project will be completed within five years. After the initial production, the repayment of the contractor's expenses, derived from the [Siri oil] reserves, will begin and continue over five years. The total volume of the contract consists of approximately $600 million real costs, to which will be added the bank's interest and the contractor's expenses.

Other features of the project are that the domestic capability of the operation has been taken into consideration and the contract has made allowances for at least 30 percent of the total project to be implemented inside Iran. It must be said that this is not in the form of a turn-key [kelid dar dast] project, but will be implemented on the basis of the NIOC's approval of the real costs; and it is the real costs identified in this project that will be paid by the contractor.

Another characteristic of the project is the gas exports that are linked to this. Normally, this gas is burned in the Persian Gulf, but it has been envisaged to produce approximately 100 million cubic feet of gas from the Siri region and we are to sell all of this gas to the Total company for 25 years, on the basis of a contract, at the same price specified in the first contract. This gas will be exported to Dubai for consumption there. [passage omitted]

One of the characteristics of the project is that it is the first barter trade [bey'e motaqabel] signed since the revolution. Our Second Development Plan has envisaged another 11 projects similar to this, which we will also sign as barter trade. Therefore, it is very important that we already have a very suitable program of action for work in this regard. We have entered an international tender concerning the remaining 11 projects envisaged in the plan. We have invited international companies to come to Tehran in the near future. We will explain the projects to the tenders and then we will enter discussions for barter trade with those companies within the framework of the Majles decisions in this regard. This contract is an effective step that will set the framework of our activities with other contractors that are going to be invited to Iran. [end recording]

Radio Views Significance of Contract

LD1607104295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0400 GMT 16 Jul 95

[From the "Research and Review" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Announcer] After pressure from Washington forced the U.S. company Conoco to cancel its contract with the National Iranian Oil Company [NIOC] for developing the Siri Island oilfields and the Dutch company Shell was rejected from the tender, the French company Total won the tender and signed a contract with NIOC.

The agreement was so significant that most foreign radios could not ignore it without assessing its effects and consequences. The BBC said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified BBC correspondent] The French company Total has signed a contract with NIOC for developing two oilfields around Siri Island in the Persian Gulf. Initially, the U.S. company Conoco signed a contract for developing the fields, but following a trade embargo imposed by Bill Clinton against Iran the company cancelled its agreement.

[Unidentified speaker] The significance of the deal is that it is the first time that NIOC has succeeded in cooperating closely with a foreign company since U.S. sanctions forced Conoco to cancel its agreement with Iran and Shell pulled out of the tender.

This is the fist time since the revolution that such a deal has been signed for oil exploration. [passage omitted] This is the very first time that direct foreign investment is being used to develop an Iranian oilfield. [end recording]

[Announcer] Some foreign media, including the Zionist regime radio, tried their best to portray the contract as an unfair deal that does not serve the interests of Iran. These comments are a result of the Zionists' anger because sanctions against our country have failed. [passage omitted]

The BBC added:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] [passage omitted] The Iranian Constitution has made direct investment very difficult. In order to get around that and sign the deal, they introduced new conditions so the agreement does not violate the Constitution. Therefore, it is not only an investment by Total, but a joint venture. Therefore, Iran is using Total as a tender and also as a partner. Iran will closely cooperate with Total in developing the oilfields.

[BBC correspondent] What is your assessment of the agreement signed between Iran and the company Total? Do you think the agreement serves Iranian interests, or that Iran had to sign the deal?

[Unidentified speaker] I believe the agreement serves the interests of Iran quite clearly. [end recording]

[Announcer] The Islamic Republic of Iran succeeded in gaining its objectives quite effortlessly. Thus, the United States was left with egg on its face. [passage omitted]

IRNA: 'Dilemma' for U.S. Company

LD1707214995 Tehran IRNA in English
1625 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, July 17, IRNA — Last week's signing by TOTAL of France to develop Sirri E and a offshore oilfields poses a fresh dilemma for CONOCO, whose original deal was blocked by U.S. President Bill Clinton in March.

The Dutch subsidiary of American oil firm had planned to use the associated gas from the two Iranian fields for reinjection at the nearby Dubai fields, which it operates, but would now be subjected to Clinton's subsequent unilateral ban that took effect last month.

The need for CONOCO to secure gas supplies was an important incentive for the U.S. company's involvement in Sirri and according to Petroleum Argus, it is likely that TOTAL will want to pipe at least some of its share to Dubai, where it also has an equity stake.

Gas reinjection and other forms of enhanced recovery are considered vital to stem the long-term decline of the Dubai fields, where CONOCO is the largest shareholder with 32.5 per cent as well as being the operator.

The problem posed by Clinton's sanctions is that the U.S. firm is prohibited from purchasing Iranian products, unless a further exemption is made as already has been for an American-led consortium seeking a swaps deal to export early oil from Azerbaijan.

Exclusions have also been allowed for American farmers to allow grain exports to Iran and more recently provisions were made to overcome flaws in the ban that would have prevent U.S. media organizations from gathering and disseminating news to Iran.

Petroleum Argus suggested that one option for CONOCO to circumscribe the embargo would be for TOTAL to sell the gas directly to the Dubai Government, but reported that so far no formal talks had been held to arrange this.

Iran's Oil minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, disclosed Monday [17 July] that 100 million cubic feet of produced gas was covered by a separate 25 year agreement with TOTAL in addition to the production of 120,000 barrels of oil per day from the fields.

Oil analysts here hailed the Sirri deal as beneficial to both the French company and to Iran and as a possible model for the development of other offshore fields.

Among the advantages to Iran, Medhi Varsi of Kleinwort Benson said that the buy-back system meant that the National Iranian Oil Company did not have to come with any capital.

He also told IRNA that it was right for Iran to engage only in a service contract and not a production sharing contract, saying the Sirri fields were new and young and therefore development was easier.

First Military Attache to Azerbaijan Appointed

LD1307214495 Tehran IRNA in English
2103 GMT 13 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, July 13, IRNA — Brigadier General Jalal Mehrban has been appointed as the first military attache of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Azerbaijan.

During the meeting held between Iranian envoy to Baku, Mohammad Taheri and Azeri Defence Minister, Sefer Ebiyev, here last night, a call was made for continuation of multilateral cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan and hoped that they always support each other as two Muslim and brotherly nations.

Expressing content over the dispatch of the first military attache to Baku, Ebiyev said his country spares no efforts to strengthen its national army with the help of Iran.

Referring to attempts of certain groups and power centers to sow seeds of discord between Iran and Azerbaijan ties, Ebiyev termed them "the work of the common enemies of the two countries." He expressed hope that with cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan, all attempts to mar the two countries' relations would be neutralized. Recently, some segments of the Azeri-based press, impressed by the negative propaganda of the U.S. mass media, released some biased articles against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ayatollah Jannati Delivers Friday Prayer Sermon

LD1407182095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1052 GMT 14 Jul 95

[Friday prayers second sermon by Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, head of the Islamic Publicity Organization and acting Friday prayers leader, in Tehran on 14 July — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

The first issue I must discuss in this sermon is the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Bosnia is a bleeding limb of Islam's body and the body of Islamic society. Truly, blood is dripping from this limb now. Some innocent people, without any shelter and defenseless, who do not even have enough weapons to defend themselves, many women and children, young and old, the sick and others in similar predicament, have become the targets of a highly barbaric onslaught. They are being killed mercilessly. They are ruthlessly forced to leave their homes. Some are detained without mercy, and God knows what fate awaits the detainees?

An Islamic city, which was supposed to be a safe area, has fallen. Other cities are under threat and the whole world is aware of this. The news of their plight has reached everyone. Yet it is amazing to see such a degree of silence. Why so much silence? I have said before that the state of ignorant barbarism today is much worse and much uglier that jaheliyat [state of Arabs before advent of Islam] of Hejaz before the advent of Islam. During the jaheliyat of that era, a group of individuals sat together and, shaken with the plight of the defenseless people before the advent of Islam, pledged to defend every defenseless oppressed person. They pledged to support anyone who was suffering under tyranny.

During that era, the people were idol-worshipers. The region was going through its dark ages. On that day there were no talks of science and awareness. In that bleak corner of the world, the said individuals sat together, made decisions and made a pledge to support the oppressed.

Today they blow their own horns, keep showing off, and are so proud of their few-words knowledge of science and technology. However, we look and see so many crimes are committed before their eyes. The film of these crimes are shown on television sets across the world. Nevertheless, a deadly silence is ruling over the human societies. Well, if you are human beings, you should respond to your human zeal and assist other human beings. [passage omitted]

Under the pretext of human rights, they condemned us because our Imam [Khomeyni], may God be satisfied with him, had issued a fatwa about an apostate who had insulted the sanctities of more than one billion Muslims today and billions of Muslims in history. He is one man, his crime is obvious, and he has been treated this way because of that crime. But we see that they keep shouting, screaming, condemning, saying human rights are not observed, saying you come and make an undertaking to revoke the fatwa and relent. All because we want to carry out God's will about such a person. [passage omitted]

Another issue also involves U.S. international policies but also concerns us. For some time high prices, inflation, and economic problems and hardships were really escalating and intensifying daily. The resulting harm was twofold. One was to make the people who were under pressure inside the country despondent, pessimistic, dissatisfied, and angry. It also had certain manifestations in some places. Outside the country its effect was to make the enemy greedy. That is, the Americans and the Israelis — the Israelis are running U.S. policies these days; that is, Clinton is an puppet in the hands of the Zionists; perhaps there have not been many past presidents as subordinate and subservient — became greedy, thinking that it is fine; that that which would be effective in defeating the Islamic Republic is public dissatisfaction. Therefore, they said, we should act. They fanned the fire of dissent — although they knew who they are and what they are — they pushed the liberals forward. They also started singing the same old songs about things like human rights being violated in Iran — they have a number of songs in their repertoire that are always ready to be played; whenever they want to do anything it is obvious what they want to do beforehand — that Iran wishes to procure nuclear weapons, that it is posing a threat to the region, that Iran opposes peace in the Middle East, and the issue of Salman Rushdie. There are four or five issues that they repeat whenever they confront us. Everybody knows that. They raised those issues again. They exerted a great deal of pressure about the Salman Rushdie issue and so forth.

The point is they thought, the Islamic government has become weak from within, so we should take advantage of that weakness, fan the flames of dissatisfaction inside the country, and mobilize public opinion in the outside world so that whatever happens in Iran the world would be glad and not be upset. That is what they did. They took some action in that respect, too. Naturally, if that trend had progressed it would have had adverse consequences. The government took a step. It was very appropriate and timely — they should have done it much sooner, but did not, and paid the price. But now that they have done it, it was very appropriate — that is, the fight against the smuggling of goods and foreign exchange, and the fight against economic corruption. That was carried out seriously.

The issue of fixing the foreign currency rate of exchange was truly appropriate and necessary. Here again, we would have incurred a smaller amount of financial loss, had the task been performed earlier. Thanks to the policy of fixing the exchange rate, a certain state of calm settled in the people's hearts. That is, the same people who were constantly concerned that if they postponed buying a commodity one day, the price would jump up three times within a few days, abandoned their urge for panic buying. Those with limited resources were extremely concerned as to what would happen in the near future when they saw that those who could afford were purchasing everything with greed because they feared that the price of carpets, refrigerators, washing machines, cars, food, and the rest would increase daily. There was a sigh of relief that the rapid rate of price rises was harnessed for the time being. We hope this policy would be maintained at least until the end of the current year [March 1996]. No doubt the policy will be maintained and would improve in the coming years, God willing. [crowd shouts praise]

The smuggling of consumer goods was playing a very effective role in pushing up the price of commodities and foreign currency. This was harnessed to a great extent. However, there is a long way to go until we reach the target. Qeshm, for example, was one of the free ports from where goods were smuggled to other regions of the country. Tehran Province itself was one destination of the smuggled goods. According to the statistics released by an official in charge of combatting commodity smuggling, one million dollars of smuggled goods were seized in Tehran in the year 1373 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1994], whereas during the first three months of the year 1374, 700 million dollars of smuggled goods were seized. How could there be such a large figure of smuggled goods in three months, if the responsible officials had confronted the offenders more seriously? Can you imagine the damage this could have inflicted on the country? At this point it is appropriate to thank the law-enforcement force and the judicial system. [passage omitted]

Very well, such work is being implemented, opening a window of hope in front of the people. To arrest someone who commits a tiny offense does not solve all problems. If a person is confronted by someone more powerful, then they should not arrest the weak and try to restore the right of the one who is more powerful. The bigshots should also be confronted.

Many high-ranking government officials and people have been involved in the smuggling of contraband goods recently. They should be confronted. They were using government facilities for smuggling purposes. They should be punished twice, three times, and ten times. If a wealthy and capitalist person commits an illegal act he is an offender and he should be dealt with seriously. But if a person is an employee of the Islamic Republic of Iran's system, a person who is supposed to be serving the people and help them, and instead he betrays the people, then he should be confronted and introduced to the people. He should receive the most severe punishment that there is. [crowd chants support]

I ask the high-ranking officials, do you see this? Is it possible to work like that? You come and stop pulling strings. You come and stop mediation. When a bigshot is arrested, telephones begin to ring from here and there to mediate and come to fix it. You should not listen to those who come to mediate and leave the judge to carry out his duties. Tell the judge that he is acting on behalf of the prophet and 'Ali, that he should either implement justice as 'Ali did or he should go ahead to hell. A judge should be given the authority and support to go ahead and stop offenders wherever he sees one. God be praised, right now we have many revolutionary, religious, and committed judges who can be given the responsibility to carry out such tasks. You should give them the task and ask them to carry it out. You should give them employment guarantees so that they can feel confident that no-one can make an incorrect decision about them and that they are supported by top officials. You give those judges freedom and then you shall see whether they are capable of stopping such wrongdoing or not?

In any case, I thank you for whatever is being done, may God bless you and reward you. May God assist you to continue your path and the people are behind you. You can see how people chant slogans during Friday prayers. These slogans are being chanted in support of you. The masses of people are behind you.

In any case, when that happened the Americans realized that they had been mistaken and that the system is not so shaky that an economic crisis could finish it off. The system can hold itself together, it can organize its own affairs, it can strengthen its military power, it can control its economy and it can confront conspiracies. That was a reply to the United States.

From this Friday prayer podium let me say this: The policies of the government and the nation are determined by the leadership and the people. [crowd chants support]

I have been told I have made a mistake, I should like to correct my mistake, I did not realize I made a mistake. I should have said that in 1373 1 million dollars worth of smuggled goods were discovered, this is the correct figure, if I gave a different figure I am now correcting myself; and the figure for the first three months of 1374 was 700,000 dollars, again if I gave a different figure I apologize; and finally in the bank case, the sum embezzled was 1.23 billion tumans [1 tuman equals 10 rials], if I said dollars, that was a mistake.

In any case, others implement the policies determined by the people and the leadership. Those who are present at the Friday prayers are the heart and soul of the people; they do not belong to any particular faction or group, they are not affiliated to anyone. They are the masses of the people, they are the people you can see: men, women, young and old from different strata of society, they all gather here. They are the masses of the people. And they are the ones who with their shouts, their shouts of God is great, their encouragements and their slogans of death to [as heard, not further specified] clarify the policies, clarify what the people want.

I am speaking on behalf of the people, here at the Friday sermons I am the people's voice, I am speaking on behalf of the people when I tell the Americans, the Zionists and others who have certain dreams that our people will never contemplate a reconciliation with the United States. [crowd chants "Death to America"]

The decree of his eminence the imam [on Rushdie] remains in force. We should not be scared of a few Zionist propaganda mouthpieces; we should be scared of God. We should only seek the satisfaction of God and the people and not be scared of anyone. They cannot do anything; if they could, they would have done it during the past 16 or 17 years. If they could have done something, they would have done it in the beginning, when the system was not stable. Now the system is stable.

Why should we be scared if someone accuses us of violating human rights? We should carry out our duties, which are, as I have said, first, seeking the satisfaction of God and secondly, seeking the satisfaction of the people. And our Muslim people want exactly the same thing: the satisfaction of God. [passage omitted]

Let us have reform at the roots. We must fight injustice, we must fight corruption, especially administrative corruption. We must struggle against waste and extravagance and against those who commit vice. From here, I tell the dear brothers of the law enforcement Forces, let me say this to them: Dear brothers, you are responsible for the struggle against vice and corruption. You have done a lot of work already, and God will reward you for this work and I do not want to belittle your efforts; in fact, we all thank you. However if you quite openly see that a certain ethical corruption is being committed before the people, something that contradicts Islam's moral values, then the people expect you to stop this taking place. [passage omitted]

Our people want a clean society, they want boys and girls to be pure and clean, they want the people's thoughts to be clean. They do not want bad propaganda, they do not want false propaganda injected into their minds. There are a number of people here and there spreading poisonous propaganda, they must be stopped categorically. We must not let them poison the people's thoughts. Our people's thoughts must be provided for. They should be able to be at ease and not think that every day someone comes along and says something to poison their mind. These issues must be talked about. I hope we can strengthen our resolve and act seriously. [passage omitted]

Pakistan

Cabinet Welcomes U.S. Move on Pressler Amendment

BK1707141795 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Federal Cabinet, which met in Islamabad today with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in the chair, welcomed the U.S. Administration's initiative for a waiver of the Pressler Amendment to return to Pakistan its military equipment and refund the cost of 28 F-16 aircraft. The Cabinet noted with satisfaction that the proposed Argentine resolution in the UN Security Council seeking to penalize nonmembers of the NPT [nuclear Non—Proliferation Treaty] has been deferred. The Cabinet also took note of Mr. Henry Kissinger's statement which exposes India as having expansionist ideas in the region.

The Cabinet approved the signing [as heard] of treaty on cooperation and principles of relations with Russia to be signed during PM's [prime minister's] forthcoming visit to Moscow. It will be the first agreement of its kind between the countries and will symbolize upgradation of political relationship between them. The Cabinet agreed in principle with the proposal to create a separate ministry to handle work relating to human rights. The Cabinet formed a committee under the chairmanship of Senator Iqbal Haider to work out details of the proposed ministry.

Briefing newsmen on the decisions of the Cabinet, the federal minister for information and broadcasting, Mr. Khalid Ahmad Kharal, said the Cabinet also took stock of the price situation in the country and decided to withdraw 110 percent duty on the import of potato till November this year in order to lower potato prices in the open market. The Cabinet directed the Ministry of Production to take immediate steps to improve the supply situation of edible oils created due to the boycott of transporters who carry palm and soybean oils from Karachi to up-country. [sentence as heard]

In reply to a question, Mr. Kharal said the United States will pay back the Pakistani money paid for F-16's with interest because the money remained in circulation with the international monetary system.

Daily Urges 'Efforts' To Replace F-16 Aircraft

BK1807061495 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jul 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Compensation package"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] THE US administration has embarked on a series of briefings, informal and formal, to senior and relevant members of the concerned Congress committees regarding the package that is being put together to allow Pakistan to obtain everything blocked by the Pressler Amendment except the F-16 aircraft. The administration is seeking authority from Congress to sell the F-16s to third countries such as Indonesia and the Philippines. The sale proceeds would be refunded to Pakistan and any shortfall would be made up by the administration by appropriation from some head of defence expenditure. This effort has been mounted in response to Pakistan's lobbying campaign through which it has managed to persuade the administration as well as helped create a bipartisan consensus in Congress that it stands hard done by. No less than President Clinton himself admitted during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's visit to Washington earlier this year that it was not right to keep the planes as well as Pakistan's money. The administration's briefing programme may be seen as an attempt to head off or neutralise any hostile resistance to the move to compensate Pakistan for the undelivered planes and through an amendment in the Pressler Amendment, which itself is an addendum to the Foreign Assistance Act, 1961, allow the delivery of other defence equipment procured by Pakistan. This is considered essential because despite the growing bipartisan consensus in Congress, reservations are still being expressed, particularly by the two Senators Pressler and Glenn, whose Amendments remain obstacles in the way of Pakistan receiving what is rightfully its due, that no watching down or modification of the Pressler Amendment should be permitted as that would undermine non-proliferation and affect the region's military balance. Of course what the worthy Senators consider a regional military "balance" includes the "imbalance" of India's galloping nuclear and missiles programmes and its build-up of conventional forces beyond any legitimate defence needs. Instead, it is Pakistan which continues to be pilloried on the question of the delivery of Chinese M-11 missiles, which both China and Pakistan have repeatedly denied. The story is based entirely on American Press speculation and the administration has had once again, during the briefings, to reiterate that it has no new information to support the assertion. The briefings are scheduled to continue in order to wear down residual resistance from both Houses of Congress. The Indian lobby in Washington is desperately trying to undo the good work done to date. There cannot therefore be any complacency on Pakistan's part. "There remains a difference between the claims of Pakistan and the US admission of what it owes, amounting to some $180 million. It goes without saying that Pakistan's precious foreign exchange, which has been lying with the US all these years, must be fully returned. This is doubly important since Pakistan will require the money to look for alternative to the non-available F-16s.

The hunt for alternatives to match the sophistication of the F- 16s has narrowed, by a process of technical and other criteria elimination, to the French Mirage and the Russian state-of-the-art Migs. The problem though is that Russian-Pakistani relations are still dogged by suspicions and aloofness, partly because of the Afghan war, partly because Russia does not want to annoy its traditional ally, India. The Mirage, on the other hand, although Pakistan is familiar with its technology and even has some infrastructure to service the aircraft on the ground, is prohibitively expensive. There will therefore be fewer Mirages available for the same amount of money. However, under the compulsion of circumstances, there may not be a great deal of choice available to Pakistan. The government should now focus its efforts on striking a deal for replacement aircraft as soon as possible.

Air Force Said Seeking Mirage Fighter Planes

BK1507124095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 15 Jul 95 pp 1,11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, July 14 — To meet the rapidly increasing threat perception from across the border, India's veiled threats of hot pursuit and massive arms acquisitions, Pakistan has decided in principle to procure at least two squadrons of the old Mirages to enhance PAF's [Pakistan Air Force] second line striking capability.

PAF, however, would conduct another series of advanced negotiations with the Western and Eastern sources for the procurement of front line strike fighter bomber.

The decisions to this effect were taken at a high level meeting held at the Air Headquarters Monday [10 July] last, chaired by Air Force Chief Air Chief Marshal Abbas Khattak and attended by senior AVMs [air vice marshals], PSOs [principle staff officers] of Northern, Central and Southern Command and the Director General Operations. The meeting has taken place in the light of recommendations made by recent JCSC [Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee] and DCC [Defense Committee of the Cabinet] meetings to fill the vacuum created in the three forces by non-delivery of F-16s and other military equipments.

PAF is dispatching shortly several technical teams to Spain, Belgium, Zaire, Lebanon, France and South Africa to carry out technical evaluations of the old Mirages mostly with storage status.

The high level meeting thoroughly assessed the operational preparedness of the PAF at various levels and bases in case of any eventuality. The meeting also reviewed the status of various air bases in terms of their strike capabilities and boosting of air- defences.

The meeting took notice of the latest shopping spree by Indian Airforce of the sophisticated air defence systems and variety of fighters from both Russia and the United Kingdom.

The defence authorities in Pakistan have been seriously seized with new developments taking place in India as a result of New Delhi's latest weapons acquisition plans. They viewed with apprehension that India has been building up its arms and weapons arsenal besides developing its ambitious missile programme by dumping MTCR [Missile Technology Control Regime].

By the end of the current year the Indian Airforce [IAF] will get 12 new MiG-29 M Fulcrum aircraft from Russia. The MiG-29Ms are being acquired to replace those lost in accidents. Simultaneously IAF is also establishing a MiG-29 assembly, servicing and spares facilities in collaboration with Russia at Nasik, western India.

The Indian Airforce also plans to order an undisclosed number of Indra-2 surveillance radars from Bharat Electronics at a cost of Rs [Indian rupees] 1.4 billion. They will be linked to the IAF's air defence ground environment system to provide coverage against low flying aircraft. Bharat Electronics will also work with Swedish company Ericsson to upgrade the Indian Army's Super Fleder Maus fire control system for anti-aircraft artillery.

The Indian Armament Research establishment's 40km-range Pineka artillery rocket, now undergoing trials, has a calibre of 214 mm and is 5 m long. The round carries a 100 kg blast fragmentation warhead, the explosive formulation is set to be 25 per cent more powerful than those used in similar in service weapons.

Pakistan defence authorities are also watching India's production of Rajendra phased array radar system which is meant for surveillance against Pakistan. Rajendra is a C band system mounted on a tracked chassis. It has been confirmed by Indian team who visited IDEX [International Defense Exhibition] at Abu Dhabi recently that India has developed intermediate range ballistic missiles but the system could not be put at display due to US pressure mounted on India to scale down its missile programme.

Firefinder Artillery locating radar system is another matter of concern for Pakistan which Indian plans to develop with the US assistance. Hughes Aircraft Company is building three AN/TPQ-37 Firefinder artillery radar systems for India who plans to acquire at least eight to twelve units of this system.

The DCC and JCSC at their respective meetings held recently had also examined Indian Navy's plans to boost its naval might. The Indian Navy plans to decide by February 1996 whether to procure either refurbished British Aerospace TAVAs [expansion unknown] offered by the United States or rebuild or new two seat Harrier trainers from the UK. The five Indian Navy's T Mk 60 trainers are grounded due to serviceability problems. Each surplus TAV-8A would cost India about 500,000 US dollars. It is installed with Rolls- Royce Pegasus engines which would require a multi-million dollar overhaul.

While Pakistan's defence cooperation with Russia remains static the Indian Airforce has just taken delivery of 10 Russian Mikoyan MiG-21UM Mongol two seat trainer aircraft. Early model MiG-21Us and two seat Hawker Hunters used for training are due to be phased out over the next 18 months. India also decides to purchase either the British Aerospace Hawks or the Dassault Dornier Alpha jet to fulfil its advanced jet training requirement.

The Indian Navy has also asked Ukraine State Enterprise Ship Building to modernise its five Rajput Class destroyers.

PAF is now pushing for acquisition of a variety of fighters to make up for the loss of F-16s and has decided to go for second hand Mirages for future upgradation at home. According to the reports PAF will examine six different offers for the supply of old Mirages which include offers from Spain (21 aircrafts with overhaul engines at about 2 million US dollars per copy) Belgium (40 aircraft all upgraded) Zaire. (7-8 need to be upgraded) Lebanon (10 aircraft but rusted and parked, needs to be examined and also require upgradation) France (40 aircraft) and South Africa (20 Cheetahs retrofitted Mirage 111s).

With F-16 going out of reckoning and problems being faced in procurement of Russian SDU-27, MiG-29 and Swedish Grippen fighter, it looks imminent that left with Hobson's choice Pakistan would go for a limited number of French Mirage 2000-5 for its front line air defence.

France Said Ready To Supply Military Technology

BK1207125995 Rawalpindi JANG in Urdu 11 Jul 95 pp 8, 6

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad — France has assured Pakistan that it is ready to fulfill all the defense requirements of its armed forces and is eager to transfer the technology for producing the latest weapons. According to reliable sources, the French leadership gave this assurance during the Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad's six day visit to France along with a Senate delegation. It has been learned that Wasim Sajjad was informed by the French officials that the first one of the three hi-speed submarines France is going to provide to Pakistan is being built quickly and will be handed over to the Pakistan Navy within the next two years. The second submarine will be built by the French experts in collaboration with Pakistani technologists while the third one will be prepared in Pakistan after the technology has been transferred. These three submarines will, hopefully, be included in Pakistan's naval fleet within this decade. Sajjad, who visited France only a few days after the visit of the Indian prime minister, Narasimha Rao, apprised his hosts of the latest situation in Kashmir and the ongoing Indian atrrocities. The French leadership informed Sajjad that France has urged India to solve the Kashmir problem peacefully, through bilateral negotiations and rescue the Kashmiri people out of the hardships. During the talks with the Senate chairman, the French leaders listened to the Pakistani standpoint on Kashmir very attentively and stressed that the problem should be solved through negotiations and not through war. It has been learnt that the French leaders told Sajjad that they were ready to provide the latest Mirage 2000(C), which has not yet been sold to any other country, to the Pakistan Air Force. The decision in this regard depends on the government of Pakistan and the armed forces. France has assured that the supply of spare parts for these arms will not be a problem. France has also offered to supply modern Puma helicopters for the Pakistan Army. It has been learnt that the Chief of Army Staff General Abdul Waheed Khan will explore the possibilities for a supply of French military equipment to meet the requirements of the Pakistan army. The Senate Chairman told Jang that France recognizes the geographic and political importance of Pakistan and has expressed the desire to increase its cooperation with Pakistan in every field.

Official Talks Continue Between Government, MQM

BK1707052295 Islamabad THE NATION in English 17 Jul 95 pp 1, 13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The third round of talks between the government and Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] held at the Governor's House here Sunday [16 July] morning.

One-point agenda was discussed at the meeting and both the sides explained their viewpoint to restore peace in Karachi. However, the negotiations remained inconclusive with some progress made. The talks will resume on Monday.

The talks started at 1030 am and ended at 1 pm. The earlier two rounds of talks were held at the Parliament House in Islamabad on July 11 and 13. It would be decided at Monday's negotiations whether the venue should be Karachi or shifted back to Islamabad.

Federal Minister for Law and Justice Prof. N.D. Khan is leading the government-side which includes Afaq Shahid, PPP [Pakistan People's Party] MNA [member of National Assembly] from Karachi and Zuhair Akram, Nadeem, PML (N) [Pakistan Muslim League — Nawaz]

MNA, who announced support to the government a few months back.

The MQM delegation, led by Ajmal Dehlvi, comprises Shoaib Bukhari, Deputy Leader of Opposition in Sindh Assembly, Tariq Javed, Qazi Khalid Ali, MQM MPA and Shaikh Liaquat Hussain.

Agencies add: Officials said Sunday's negotiating session focussed on efforts to restore peace to violence-plagued Karachi.

"We are definitely making progress after every session," Zuhair Akram, a member of the government negotiating team, told AFP.

Ajmal Dehlvi, editor of a local Urdu language daily, heading the five-member MQM team, told reporters: "By holding talks we want to show the rest of the world that our party is not a terrorist party as portrayed by the government."

Dehlvi said his party would not boycott the talks, but if the doors of negotiations were closed then violence was the only way left. His team had conveyed its complaints about operations by paramilitary Rangers and intelligence agencies against party members.

Dehlvi said the MQM was trying to assess the level of government sincerity. "We have told them that lip service will not work and the situation needs practical steps."

Before the meeting, both sides expressed optimism about the outcome of the talks.

"It will take some time to find a common ground," Zuhair Akram said then, adding that both sides were "seriously" trying to find a solution.

Later, leaders of both sides said that on Sunday they discussed law and order situation in Karachi.

They said that in the first phase our effort is to establish lasting peace. The Sunday's session was devoted to efforts for establishing peace in Karachi at all costs. They showed their optimism about the success of talks and hoped some viable solution to the issue will be achieved.

According to knowledgeable sources the two sides during their Monday talks will discuss formal suggestions to restore peace in Karachi.

Meanwhile, Governor Sindh Kamaluddin Azfar personally took the members of both Government and Altaf Group to a visit of the Governor House after the conclusion of Sunday's talks.

He particularly showed them the room where Quaid-i-Azam stayed during his stay in the House.

The members of delegation showed keen interest in the personal articles of the Quaid-i-Azam.

The delegation members particularly saw the 11th Edition of Encyclopedia Britinica in the Quaid's Library. It was published in 1910.

They also saw with keen interest the silver-coated chair which was built in 1911 at the time of arrival of Edward VII. Later, this chair was used by Queen Mary at Delhi Darbar in Delhi.

Later, the Governor hosted a lunch for the members of both negotiating teams.

According to our correspondent, later, addressing a Press conference at Karachi Press Club.

Leader of the MQM negotiating team Ajmal Dehlvi said that he was satisfied with the talks so far held between the government and the MQM and hoped that the ongoing dialogue would bring positive results, resolving the issue.

He said that for successful and meaningful talks raids on the houses of MQM workers and supporters and killing of innocent MQM workers must be stopped forthwith.

He said that the 18-point charter of demands presented by the MQM was not much complicated and added if government was really sincere it could solve the problems within a week's time.

The said that delay in solving the problems could further aggravate the situation, and in that case the government would be responsible for that.

Dehlvi said the MQM was a political party which believed in resolving the issue through negotiations in the larger interest of the country.

He said that provocation on the part of government could not separate the MQM from negotiations process.

He told newsmen that the MQM negotiating team in Sunday's talks informed the government's team about the 'reign of terror' unleashed against the MQM workers and supporters even when the talks to find a peaceful solution were in progress.

Ajmal Dehlvi said that all the local and international pressures were there on the government to establish peace in Karachi. To a question, he said that American Press, TV, and a dozen investors, likely to come to Pakistan, are putting pressure on government for putting an end of violence in Karachi. However, he denied that the American government has asked Pakistan government to resolve the issue. The US does not consider Pakistan as an enemy country and hence there is nothing like that, he said.

Apart from the US media had investors, Human Right Commission. Amnesty International and local parties are all with the MQM, calling for an end to repression in Karachi, he said.

President Farooq Leghari, Speaker National Assembly, Yusaf Raza Gilani and Senate Chairman, Wasim Sajjad and all-out to cooperate in the peace initiative. [sentence as published] The Senate Chairman and the National Assembly Speaker have assured the MQM all possible help in this regard, he observed.

When asked why the MQM is insisting on talks while the government is not creating conducive atmosphere, Ajmal Dehlvi said that the MQM was being labelled as a party which did not believe in political solution to the problem. "Wrong propaganda, calling the MQM a terrorist party is continuing. We want negotiated settlement and make the world believe that we sincerely mean it", he added.

APP adds: Talking to newsmen the head of government's negotiating team Federal Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs N.D. Khan said that there is no deadlock in the ongoing talks and these are moving ahead.

He said that one should be hopeful to achieve the desired objectives through negotiated settlement of political problems.

He reiterated that as far as the question of success of talks is concerned its basic principle is of quid pro quo. Secondly, the talks are being held unconditionally from very beginning.

He said the dialogue session will continue on Monday as well and for this reason the joint communique was not issued on Sunday. However, it will be issued on Monday.

N.D. Khan said, "in Sunday's talks we presented the problems of terrorism and told his counterparts that they should condemn terrorism and dissociate themselves from terrorists and terrorist activities".

He said he told the Altaf Group team that law enforcement agencies were no more engaged in operation but certainly they were on defensive patrolling and were available whenever there was any threat to law and order.

He emphasised that no government can allow law and order to be taken in hand by anyone.

The position as on ground and on the part of government is very positive because law enforcement agencies are on routine duty of watch and vigilance, N.D. Khan said.

Referring to the reservations shown by Altaf Group on 21-point charter of demands given by Government team in exchange for their demands, the leader of the Government team said that his position on 21-points was categorical.

He pointed out that in the first session held at Islamabad, the draft of 21-points was handed over to Ajmal Dehlvi and simultaneously issued to the Press and media. First it was exchanged with Ajmal Dehlvi and it was wrong to say that it was first given to media.

Prof Khan said the Government team is fully empowered. But it was also in touch with the Prime Minister, seeking advice and guidance from her whenever such a necessity warranted.

Referring to the issues which came under discussion at Sunday's session, Prof. N.D. Khan said, "at present we are working for return of peace, normalcy and tranquillity and discussing the problem with the team of Altaf Group.

"One can feel satisfaction over the process and progress of talks of the day", he said.

The Law Minister said he has told Altaf Group team the necessity of creating a conducive conditions to deal with demands which have already been exchanged.

When asked if the next round will be held in Islamabad, Prof. N.D. Khan said we came to Karachi on their suggestion. He said sometime talks will be held here and sometime in Islamabad.

According to official sources, during the talks with Altaf Group on Sunday the government-side said it will not tolerate anything against the two-nation theory.

Referring to the talks of confederation by Altaf Hussain during his recent interview to INDIA TODAY, the Government-side made it clear to Altaf Group that the demand was totally. against the two-nation theory.

It was also made clear to the Altaf Group by the Government-side that the idea of confederation, just could not be tolerated as it was against the vital interests of the country.

The Government side, according to the sources, demanded of Altaf Group's team that their leaders should clarify his interview with India Today and condemn Indian injustices in Occupied Kashmir.

The Government-side also impressed upon Altaf Group to dissuade its workers from adding fuel to the fire. They should cooperate with the government in its efforts for the restoration of peace in Karachi.

They said that the attitude of Altaf Hussain and law and order situation in Karachi were inter-linked. Whenever Altaf Hussain talks of peace instead of adopting a threatening posture, the bloodshed is stopped in Karachi till the time when he again begins talking in the language of violence and vengeance, thus again triggering violence in the city.

According to sources, the Government's negotiating team adopted a principled stand on the issue of the six terrorists arrested by Police in Karachi recently and sought a categorical explanation from Altaf Group team about their stand on the issue.

The Government negotiating team told Altaf's nominated team that their leader had owned the terrorists namely Chota Imran, Rao Khalid, Sahfqat, Anis and Ghazanfar nick named Muzaffar as is workers. Altaf Group team was informed that the Police had recovered from these terrorists three Kalashnikovs, three pistols, one 7-MM, 150 rounds and fire crackers. The accused were required to Police in at least 15 cases including eight murder cases and dozens of cases damaging citizens' property.

The Government side expressed its surprise over the contradictions in the statements given by Altaf Hussain and Ajmal Dehlvi on the issue. It pointed out that Altaf Hussain had described these terrorists as his workers while Ajmal Dehlvi had condemned them.

The sources said that the third round of talks between the Government and Alaf Group's team ended at a note of satisfaction by both sides over the objectivity of talks. It is hoped that Altaf Group' team would give its arguments on the issues discussed so far when both sides resume their talks Monday morning.

AFP Reports on Karachi Violence, Talks

BK1707024495 Hong Kong AFP in English
0234 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi, July 17 (AFP) — Peace talks between the Pakistani Government and Karachi's ethnic opposition group were scheduled to resume Monday [17 July] in this city where sectarian violence has claimed 2,000 lives in the past 18 months, officials said.

On Sunday the two sides talked for three hours, and eight people were shot to death, officials said.

Police said four people were shot dead by snipers in different parts of the city while another four bullet-riddled bodies were found dumped in sacks.

Officials said tension prevailed in the suburb of Hasanabad, in eastern Malir district, because of a row between two groups of residents over the control of the shrine of a Muslim saint in the area.

Paramilitary Rangers and police were patrolling the locality to prevent any clash between the rivals. Residents said dozens of families left their homes because they feared clashes.

Officials said Sunday's negotiating session, which focused on efforts to restore peace to Karachi, was the third round since last Tuesday of talks between the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the Muhajir Qaumi Movement (MQM), representing the large Urdu-speaking community of immigrants from India and their descendants.

While Urdu is the national language of Pakistan, Sindhi is the predominant language in Sindh province, of which Karachi is the largest city.

"We are definitely making progress after every session," Zuhair Akram, a member of the government negotiating team, told AFP.

Ajmal Dehlvi, editor of a local Urdu-language daily, heading the five-member MQM team, told reporters: "By holding talks we want to show the rest of the world that our party is not a terrorist party as portrayed by the government."

The government blames the MQM for much of the violence in Pakistan's largest city and commercial hub. But the group attributes the bloodshed to what it calls the government's anti- Muhajir policy.

Dehlvi said his party would not boycott the talks, but if the doors of negotiations were closed then violence was the only way left.

His team had conveyed its complaints about operations by paramilitary Rangers and intelligence agencies against party members.

The MQM has tabled an 18-point list of political and social demands to the government team led by Bhutto's Law Minister Nabi Dad Khan.

Delhvi said the MQM was trying to assess the level of government sincerity. "We have told them that lip service will not work and the situation needs practical steps."

Before the meeting, both sides expressed optimism about the outcome of the talks.

"It will take some time to find a common ground," Zuhair Akram said then, adding that both sides were "seriously" trying to find a solution.

Bhutto, who chaired a high level meeting here Friday to discuss the law and order situation, has said the government would continue the dialogue with the MQM, while acting against terrorism "with full force.

Third Round Ends; Statement Issued

BK1707113595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The third round of talks between the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] concluded in Karachi today.

A joint statement issued after three hours of talks this afternoon says that important matters with reference to bringing an improvement in the law and order situation were discussed. It was also decided that provocative statements against each other be avoided. Both the sides strongly condemned all kinds of terrorism and incidents of terrorism. It was also decided that cooperation be extended to each other for the restoration of peace. A list of MQM prisoners, who have shifted to the interior of the province from the Karachi jail, was presented to the government committee so that their repatriation could be arranged. The statement further said that the issues which were discussed today were aimed at accelerating the negotiations and the pace of settlement to bring peace to Karachi.

The next round of talks would be held on Thursday [20 July] at 1900 in Islamabad. The government team headed by the federal law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, comprised MNA's [members of National Assembly] Afaq Shahid and Zuhair Akram Nadim, while the MQM was led by Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi and comprised Mr. Shoaib Bukhari, Qazi Khalid Ali, Tariq Javed, and Sheikh Liaqat Hussain.

Government Official Comments

BK1707161095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The third round of talks between the government and Altaf Group [of the Muhajir Qaumi Movement] concluded in Karachi today. A joint statement issued after three hours of talks this afternoon says that important matters with reference to bringing an improvement in the law and order situation were discussed. [passage omitted]

Professor N.D. Khan, the leader of the government team holding negotiations with Altaf Group, has said that the restoration of law and order and the normalization of the situation for day-to-day activities in Karachi are on the top of the agenda. Talking to newsmen in Karachi this afternoon, he said for this purpose in-depth and detailed discussions are needed, because several forces are actively involved in creating disorder in the city. He said our effort is to have the other side condemn terrorism, throw away arms, and condemn the elements which want to foist their will on the administration through violence. He said we are moving successfully toward this end.

Prof. N.D. Khan said the federal and Sindh governments are being kept informed of the outcome of the talks. He said most of the issues, including court cases against Altaf Group's workers, some senators, and members of the provincial assembly, are under the jurisdiction of the provincial government and we will remain in touch with them on these matters.

Answering a question, he said that political issue can be resolved only after settling basic issues and turning the current of events toward normalcy. He said the two sides participated in talks without any preconditions.

About the time required for the talks, Prof. N.D. Khan said as the issues are complex, negotiations will certainly take time. He, however, added that progress has been made in the talks held so far.

Both Sides Pledge Restoration of Peace

BK1807033695 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Jul 95 p 1, 4

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — The second session of the third round of talks between the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] was held at the Governor's House here on Monday [17 July] in which both the sides pledged to cooperate with each other to restore peace in Karachi.

The government and MQM negotiators end the third round on Monday with a promise to meet again at the Parliament House, Islamabad, on July 20 at 7.00 pm to begin a fresh round of talks.

After the two-day talks here, a single-page joint communique was issued in which the MQM has been mentioned by the party name, instead of Altaf Group — a term the government had been using ever since the talks began in Islamabad last week.

According to the joint communique, a number of issues came up for discussion and it was decided that the two parties would desist from issuing provocative statements against each other.

The communique said that important matters pertaining to law and order situation were discussed and both the sides decided that they would look into complaints made by each other and try to remove them.

The two sides strongly assailed the terrorist activities in the city and decided to help each other restore peace on the streets of the city, the communique said.

A list of all those prisoners, belonging to MQM, who have been shifted to various prisons in interiors Sindh from Karachi Central Prison was also presented to the governments could be made to bring them back to Karachi, the communique said.

The matter pertaining to cases against the MQM's elected representatives and workers also came up for discussion, the communique added.

The talks which started in the morning lasted for three and a half hours. Federal Law Minister, Prof N.D. Khan and members National Assembly, Afaq Shahid and Zuhair Akram Nadeem represented the government while the MQM team, led by Ajmal Dehlvi, included Deputy Opposition Leader in the Sindh Assembly, Shoaib Bukhari, Tariq Javed, Qazi Khalid and Sh Liaquat Hussain.

At the end of the talks, N.D. Khan said that the talks were held a very congenial atmosphere in which members of both the sides agreed to cooperate with each other for total elimination of terrorism and restoration of peace in the city.

N.D. Khan, who was looking relaxed, said that he had discussed a number of issues with the MQM team and that both the sides were giving top priority to steps to restore peace and tranquility in Karachi and build confidence between both the sides.

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